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TO JAMES PAUL,

OF BURSLEDON, IN LOWER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP, IN PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, IN THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA; ON MATTERS RELATING TO HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

Letter VI.

My dear Friend,

This Letter will conclude the remarks which I mean to address to you, relative to the interesting affair of the Princess of Wales. I have, indeed, already gone into the whole of the subject as far as it is necessary for me to go into it, seeing that the Defence of the Princess leaves so very little to be said by any one. But, there have arisen certain matters, forming the sequel of the disclosure, which are well worthy of your attention; and, of these, the most important are, the debates, or, rather, the remarks and counter-remarks, which have been made in the two Houses of Parliament, relative to the deposition of Mrs. Lisle, which deposition you will find in the Register, at page 393.

MR. WHITBREAD, in the House of Commons, on the 17th of March, last past, referred to this affidavit, or deposition, and he animadverted upon the conduct of the Four Lords, who took it down. The Four Lords, in their place, in the House of Lords, a few days afterwards, entered into an explanation, vindicated their own conduct, and spoke in very severe terms of the attack which had been made upon them.

Before I enter further into this matter, I beg you to observe, that it is of very great importance; because, as you will have perceived, of the whole of that crowd of witnesses, who were examined upon this occasion, Mrs. Lisle is the only one, to whose testimony the Princess appears to attach any importance; and, indeed, she is the only witness whose testimony seems to merit any serious refutation. She is, as was observed in my last Letter, one of the four persons, upon whose testimony the charge of impropriety of conduct did, in the eyes of the Four Lords, rest for credi-

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bility; and, as the Princess's defence does, in my opinion, demolish the testimony of the other three, Mrs. Lisle alone remains as a witness whose testimony has some weight. It was, therefore, in the opinion of Mr. Whitbread, of great consequence to explain every circumstance relating to the mode which the Four Lords pursued in getting at and in recording this testimony. I will not, for fear of mistakes, attempt to make any abstract, or abridgment, of his speech upon this occasion; but, will insert it just as I find it reported in the *Times newspaper* of the 18th of March, that being the fullest report that I have been able to find of Mr. Whitbread's speech, which, as far as related to the subject before us, was as follows: "He must," he said, "trouble the House for a few minutes with some passages in Mrs. Lisle's evidence, relative to the Princess and Captain Manby. Mrs. L. could not say there was any attachment; and she never saw any kissing hands, &c. He wished to confine himself to material points. After the evidence was given, the depositions were taken; and he was not surprised, under all the circumstances, at Mrs. Lisle's signature to the deposition; but he was, he must confess, surprised to find leading questions put to her by his Learned Friend, the Lord Chancellor Erskine; questions on which that Noble and Learned Lord, when an advocate, would have expired, sooner than have permitted to be answered by any witness of his, on a trial in a Court of Law. One would be tempted by the deposition to think, that Mrs. L. said all in one breath as it were. The question in the examination was put to Mrs. L. "Did Captain Manby sit next to the Princess at dinner?" Yet, in the deposition, it seemed as if she stated it voluntarily. Then Lord Erskine asks Mrs. L. "whether they all sat just as the four Noble Lords sat round their table with her?" Mr. W. remarked on various other questions put to Mrs. L., and expressed his astonishment that so many leading questions should have been put to her. "What! did the Princess



“and Captain Manby sit apart? What, if sitting together, do you suppose they talked about?” Lords Erskine and Ellenborough put these questions; and then the deposition is to go out to the world to impress the sense of guilt on the part of the Princess. The answer of Mrs. L. regarding the conversation was, that she did not listen to it. Then Lord Erskine desires her to answer him, as a woman of reason, character, and of knowledge of the world, whether the Princess’s conduct was *proper for a married woman*—he puts it to her honour *as a mother*? Really, there never was a question put to a female witness which could make the chords of sensibility vibrate more strongly in her heart. The answer was collected, dignified, affectionate, and motherly, for the question referred to her own family: “my daughter,” she says, “*lived well with her husband.*” To the question again, whether the Princess lived as a married woman ought? Mrs. L.’s answer was, not like the statement in the deposition. Lord Ellenborough, indeed, said to the Chancellor, “I suppose you’d put it as *any married woman.*” “What did you ever think of the Princess’s talking with Captain Manby?” was another question: but these were never answered, though we had something about them in the deposition. He was sorry to be obliged to animadvert upon the conduct of the four Noble Lords Commissioners; but he should be doing injustice to the cause of justice, if he did not say, that, if the accused had been provided with an advocate, witnesses would have been protected, or prevented from answering many interrogatories that were put to them. “The Princess,” says Mrs. L., “*is free and condescending.*” “That,” says the Chancellor, “*is not my question.*” “I thought,” says Mrs. L., “*that the Princess liked to talk with Captain Manby, rather than with the Ladies.*” Let the House recollect, that there were, and are attached to the Princess, persons of high consideration; yet could any body doubt that when new society, which afforded new topics of conversation, broke in upon the sameness—the fatigue of retired and mock royalty,—debarred from many sources of amusement,—yet uncompensated by even the trappings of her state, could any body doubt, or be surprised, that the Princess should find something in it agreeable? Yet that was an im-

putation upon her! Let Gentlemen bring to their consideration the situation of their own wives, sisters, and daughters. When they left home to attend to their public or private business, would they not treat with contempt and scorn, evidence such as this, if it was attempted to charge criminality upon it? (*Hear, hear.*) They might be disposed to prosecute the calumniator: but Her Royal Highness did not stand in the situation of a person for whom such steps could be taken. He was ashamed of some parts of the examination. It was asked, whether she went out with Mr. Hood in a whiskey? Whether *he* drove it? This was something like the mode of cross-examination. “Who was there besides Mr. Hood’s servant?” “Was he a man or a boy?” (*A laugh.*) “How often did she go out so?” Was it fair-play to the Princess to extract answers in that manner? Then they came to Mr. Chester, who was stated to be “*a pretty young man.*” (*A laugh.*) This was too ludicrous to be serious, and yet too serious to be ludicrous. The inference seemed to be, that there was a *prepossession* for him, because he was handsome. It was asked, “*Is he not handsome?*” The answer was, “*pretty.*” All that was nauseous had been read; but he should notice one point: the witness was asked, “Do you recollect the Princess getting up and going out of her room into another at night, for a light?” Answer, “I do.” “Why,” say two lawyers, “*did she get up in the night?*” (*laugh.*) Yet this was in the deposition; and the shakers of heads continued to shake, because Mrs. Lisle had deposed so and so. That was not a fair construction of Mrs. L.’s evidence, if the examinations were read. “I heard Her Royal Highness say,” says the witness, “*that she had been ill, and that her candle was gone out.*” Was not the Princess to be in a situation common to every subject of the realm? The public mind must form her shield, and her protection. Read the evidence, and say whether she has not a right to be treated as innocent, till she be proved guilty. Mrs. L.’s testimony gives an easy, natural, and probable solution, of this mysterious transaction. (*Hear.*) Mr. Chester, it seems, walked out twice with the Princess; and he was left at Lord Sheffield’s. Then for Captain Moore. He dined there, and where, it

“ was asked, did he go afterwards? Why, down stairs: she sent him for a book. “ *How long was he in getting it?* “ Twenty minutes. Then it was asked, how long he staid the second time. This part of the examination was as much like an imputation on Mrs. Lisle, as upon the Princess. Well then: the Princess actually made Captain Moore a present of a silver inkstand! Mrs. L. saw him afterwards on the Princess Charlotte’s birth day, when he went away before the rest of the company. He (Mr. W.) might now go to Mr. Lawrence, and so on to the end of the chapter in the same manner. He had, he conceived, done enough in referring to this book; and he clearly saw that the notes of the examination took the sting entirely out of the depositions.”

This was the speech of Mr. WHITBREAD, as reported in the news-papers. He had, by some means, obtained a written copy of the questions put to the witnesses. This paper, it seems, he read to the house, making his remarks on it as he proceeded. No notice, in public, was taken of this, by the *Four Lords*, till the 22d of March, when they all four spoke of it in the House of Lords. Lord Ellenborough, the Lord Chief Justice, led the way; and, as the other three gave their full assent to the correctness of his statement, I will not insert any of their speeches except his, which I take from the Report, published in the Times news-paper of the 23d of March, and which report gave it in the following words.

“ Lord Ellenborough commenced by saying, that he had to trouble their Lordships on an occasion, in which many motives concurred to make him come forward reluctantly. The House would understand, that the circumstance to which he alluded, was connected with the mention of individuals whom his respect would not allow him lightly to name. He was aware, that in coming forth to clear himself, there might be an imputation of weakness and irritation under the charge which forced him forward; but then it was necessary that truth should be told: there were cases, in which all of respect that we could feel for general opinion,—all of credit that we could claim with the world,—all honour and propriety urged us on exculpation. Another reason still might retard him,—he was a Privy Councillor: going into a question of this nature might

“ seem to involve a dereliction of his duty; but he trusted nothing should so far make him forget that duty, as to touch upon matters by whose disclosure it might be impaired. But the character of his Noble Colleagues must not be left to suffer through his silence. They were all placed in the strange and hard situation where they must be condemned unheard, or look for an imperfect vindication by the scantiness of their right to explain. But nothing should prevent him giving the fullest denial to the calumny in question,—that *foulest, basest, and most malignant calumny* that could have been thrown out against men in the situation which he and his Noble Colleagues had held. It would be remembered that some years since His Majesty had been advised to issue a Commission for an inquiry into matters which involved some eminent persons in this country. In that Commission his (Lord Ellenborough’s) name was inserted, without his knowing any thing of the matter. Once engaged by His Majesty’s command, he did his duty to the best of his power. But it was in the performance of that duty that some person, with the most abandoned and detestable slander, had dared to charge him with a gross act of dishonesty; him, on whose character for integrity, diligence, and care, depended more of the property and interests of the people than on those of any other man in the country; yet of him, it was foully and slanderously alleged, that he had falsified the evidence given before the Commission, giving in as a document, evidence that was not received, and suppressing that which was actually given. This was all a lie—a vile slander,—all false as Hell. He would not violate the propriety of that House; he knew the respect and decency which it required; but he must give the lie to falsehood. He should now trouble the House with a short statement of facts. In the course of the inquiry his Noble Colleagues thought it proper to have some person to take down and arrange the evidence. His Majesty’s Solicitor General at that time, (Sir Samuel Romilly,) was the person fixed on. One evening the Commission having met, and the witnesses being in attendance, it was thought better not to defer the examination, and lose the evening, though from some circumstance or other Sir Samuel Romilly was not in



"attendance. The messenger sent for  
 "him could not find him, and the exami-  
 "nation proceeded. The Commissioners  
 "requested that he (Lord Ellenborough),  
 "as he had been in the habit of taking  
 "down evidence, and probably took down  
 "in the year twice as much as any man in  
 "the kingdom, should take down the evi-  
 "dence of the witnesses in attendance.  
 "He declared upon the most sacred asse-  
 "veration that could be made,—the most  
 "solemn sanction of an oath,—that every  
 "word of that deposition came from the  
 "lips of the witness in question,—that  
 "every word of it was read over to her,—  
 "if not paragraph by paragraph, as it was  
 "taken down, certainly all after it was  
 "taken,—and every sheet signed with  
 "her name. If it would not be going  
 "into the particular disclosure, which  
 "nothing could induce him to allow or  
 "advise, the bare inspection of the paper  
 "would be enough to shew that fabrica-  
 "tion was impossible. It was full of in-  
 "terlineations; the mind of the party was  
 "expressed in its language,—any man  
 "might have seen, in its changes and cor-  
 "rections, that the deposition went to  
 "ascertain the full meaning of the witness,  
 "and could not have been the work of  
 "him or the other Commissioners. He  
 "might, at least, from his station, take  
 "the credit of laborious accuracy; and he  
 "would venture to say, that not one word  
 "was in that written deposition which had  
 "not been spoken by the witness. But  
 "how absurd was the charge! Would  
 "his Noble Colleagues have suffered him  
 "to vitiate the evidence! Would they  
 "have allowed him to set down a word on  
 "the paper which was not deposed by the  
 "witness? He had every reason, from  
 "the most perfect recollection, to say,  
 "that the paper in question contained the  
 "whole evidence—and nothing but the  
 "evidence of the witness. Their Lord-  
 "ships would forgive him for those repe-  
 "titions; but when they shewed so just a  
 "jealousy of the reputation of their body,  
 "when it was so important that his (Lord  
 "Ellenborough's) integrity should stand  
 "without suspicion, from the multitude of  
 "interests connected with it,—their Lord-  
 "ships could not blame him for standing  
 "forth to repel in the strongest manner so  
 "base and impudent, and *miscreant* an im-  
 "putation. (*Hear.*) Nay, the thing was  
 "foolish as well as wicked. It was *despi-*  
 "*cable* from its very *stupidity*. It charged  
 "him with putting *leading* questions.

"Now what was the case in which leading  
 "questions could be put? It was, where  
 "there were contending parties; and lead-  
 "ing questions were only improper when  
 "the counsel might be suspected of in-  
 "structing his own witness. But *the Judge*  
 "had a right to put any question which  
 "appeared to him likely to elucidate the  
 "truth. There was another case, when  
 "the witness was adverse; but here the  
 "rule had its exceptions, and nothing to  
 "be derived from it could impeach the  
 "putting of any questions *by Commissioners*  
 "*who could have had no object but the truth.*  
 "It remained for this *stupid* and *cursed*  
 "*impudence*,—for *impudence* was a *curse*,  
 "to add another query, and gravely de-  
 "mand why the examination had not been  
 "written in question and answer. But  
 "was there a man grey-headed in the law  
 "who had ever heard of such a thing?  
 "If the whole of the facts could be de-  
 "tailed, no prejudice on the subject could  
 "lie on the minds of the public for an  
 "instant. But as a Privy Councillor he  
 "could not address the Prince Regent  
 "for that purpose—(*Hear*)—One of the  
 "most alarming symptoms of the age was,  
 "that *brutal* and *savage* indifference with  
 "which men threw about slander at the  
 "*highest characters*: this was 'tossing  
 "firebrands,' and then saying, 'am I not  
 "in sport?' But in the whole transaction,  
 "he and the Noble Commissioners, he  
 "must be allowed to say, felt, not perfect  
 "indifference, (for who could feel indif-  
 "ference?) but a single desire to do their  
 "duty—(*Hear!*). He was sorry to have  
 "so far troubled the House. His purpose  
 "was not vindictive, but exculpatory.  
 "For whatever punishment the offence  
 "might call, he would call for none;—he  
 "was only desirous to stand unimpeached  
 "in the opinion of the country, and honest  
 "in the eyes of his fellow-men."

My Lord, the Chief Judge, appears to  
 have been very much enraged upon this  
 occasion. He appears to have been greatly  
 moved. He appears to have been in a  
 passion, as people call it. But, before I  
 make any remark on the merits of this dis-  
 pute between the Four Lords and Mr.  
 Whitbread, it will be necessary to pursue  
 the matter as it proceeded in parliament,  
 where, on the 23d of March, Mr. Whit-  
 bread, having, in the meanwhile, applied  
 to Mrs. Lisle, produced a letter, signed  
 by that lady, stating, that the paper,  
 which he had sent to her (the same which  
 he had read in the House) was a correct



copy of the *questions* put to her and of her *answers*, as she had *written the whole down*, immediately after the examination took place. He also entered into an explanation as to the *nature* of the animadversions which he had made upon the conduct of the *Four Lords*; and said, that he had *not* accused them of putting a false deposition upon paper: that he had *not* accused them of any *fabrication*; that he had *not* said, that they had been guilty of any falsification of testimony; but, that he had said, that *leading* questions were put, and that, if the evidence had been inserted by *question and answer*, instead of putting down the *answers only*, Mrs. Lisle's testimony would have appeared in a very different light from what it did; and this appears to have been the impression on the mind of Mrs. Lisle herself; for, otherwise, why did she write down the questions and answers upon going home from the Commissioners?

The main points to be considered here are, first, whether *leading* questions ought to have been put by the Four Lords upon such an occasion; secondly, whether they ought to have reported the evidence in *question and answer*, or only in the *answers*.

Mr. Whitbread has, by the writers in some of the news-papers, as well as by the Four Lords, been charged with *ignorance*, because he complained of the putting of leading questions. It is very well known, that, what is called a leading question is sometimes intended or has an obvious tendency to draw from a witness that which is not true; or, at least, to *point out to him what to say*; and, such questions are not allowed to be put by the advocate on whose side the witness is brought; but that *any* question may be put by the adverse advocate, or by the Judge, because they cannot be suspected of any desire to tutor the witness. Therefore, as applicable to the present case, Lord Ellenborough is reported to have said, that "nothing could impeach the putting of leading questions by the Commissioners, who could have no *object but the truth*." No: certainly. God forbid that I should say, that they had *any object but the truth*; but, still, when a deposition, consisting, in part, of *answers to leading questions*, came to be published to the world, such deposition might be understood in a sense different from that in which a simple declaration, or narration, of the witness would be understood; and, indeed, in this case, Mrs.

Lisle, who had read and signed her deposition, seems to have thought it necessary to guard against this; for, upon her going home, she wrote down the answers as contained in her deposition, and she put to them the *questions*, by which those answers were drawn forth. This she regarded as an act of justice due to Her Royal Mistress, and, as appears from her Letter to Mr. Whitbread, she *immediately* gave Her Royal Highness a copy of the whole of the examination, in question and answer; and, as you will perceive, Her Royal Highness says, in one part of her defence, that, in such a case, the questions as well as the answers ought to have been subjoined to the Report.

Upon this second point, the Lord Chief Justice defied any man to cite an instance, in which the minutes of a *Judge* had been taken down in any other way than that in which Mrs. Lisle's deposition had been taken down; and, in the House of Commons, Mr. Whitbread was told, that he ought to have known, from his attendance at the Quarter Sessions, that such was the universal practice; and that, therefore, he ought to have considered it as proper in this case.

Now, observe, it must here be supposed, that the reprovers of Mr. Whitbread spoke either of depositions or examinations previous to trial; or, of examinations before a court and jury; and, I am of opinion, that neither of these furnishes a case in point. As to the first, the examinations thus taken do not serve as the ground of *any final decision*; the party accused may be held to bail or committed upon them; but, he is afterwards to be *tried*; the whole is to be heard over again before other magistrates and before jurors, who are to *decide* upon the case; but, who are not to decide, *till they themselves have heard the witnesses speak*; till they themselves have *heard* the questions as well as the answers. In the case of Mrs. Lisle's deposition, there was no after examination to take place. The King, to whom the deposition was sent along with the Report upon it, was to form his judgment upon the answers only. The difference here is so manifest and so important that it needs nothing further to make you fully sensible of it.

As to examinations before a court and jury, it is very true, that the Judge makes a minute of the answers only. When he sums up the evidence, he seldom says a word about the questions, and merely tells



the jury, that the witness has sworn *thus* and *thus*, repeating, as nearly as possible, the words of the witness; but, observe, though the Judge does not minute down the questions; though he does not state the questions to the jury; the jury have **HEARD THEM ALL**; and, when they are told by the Judge, that the witness has said so and so, they have fresh in their mind the *question* in answer to which he so said; and that, by that means, they are enabled to give to the answer its precise value, which no one who has not heard the question can be able to do.

You will please to bear in mind, that it was *the King* who was to *decide* upon Mrs. Lisle's testimony. It was to him, that the Four Lords made their report upon that evidence, and that it was to him, that her deposition was sent. And, it is necessary for you to keep in mind also, that Mrs. Lisle was one of the four witnesses, mentioned at the close of the Report, as having given testimony calculated to give rise, and, indeed, which must *necessarily* give rise, to *very unfavourable interpretations* as to the conduct of the Princess. The other three of these four witnesses, Cole, Bidgood, and Fanny Lloyd, we have seen enough of before; but Mrs. Lisle, a lady of unimpeached character, who had been with the Princess for many years, and who has remained with her almost up to this time, was, and is, worthy of serious attention.

It was the King, you will perceive, who was to *decide* upon the value of every expression of Mrs. Lisle, and the King was not present, as a juror is, to hear the *questions* as well as the answers; and, therefore, as Mr. Whitbread contended, the King had not the best means of arriving at a just opinion of the value of Mrs. Lisle's evidence. The same might be said of the *public*. They saw only the answers; and, though the Four Lords did not publish the depositions, the depositions were published; the answers of Mrs. Lisle were published; and, therefore, Mr. Whitbread thought it just; he thought it necessary to a right decision by the people, that the questions as well as the answers should be publicly known.

When it was contended, that Judges in their minutes and Justices in their examinations took down and recorded only the *answers* of witnesses, it might have been recollected, that, in other cases, the questions as well as the answers are taken down. In trials before Committees of the

House of Commons, for instance, this is the practice; and, the reason of it appears to be this: that the House itself, who is to decide upon any special report of their Committees, *are not present* to hear the examinations; and, therefore, must have question as well as answer to enable them to judge correctly of the real value and amount of the evidence. And, as to trials that are *published*, the question, as well as the answer, is invariably given, as being absolutely necessary to give the public a clear insight of the matter. The fact appears to me to be this; that, where the party who is to *decide* is not present at the examination, the question as well as the answer is necessary to the ends of fair decision. The Four Lords, looking upon themselves apparently as judges or magistrates, followed the usual practice of judges or magistrates; but, they do not appear to have adverted to the circumstance of the king not being present as jurors are; and, as to the capacity of magistrate, they did, unfortunately for the Princess and fortunately for Lady Douglas, soon find, that they were not acting in that capacity.

The vast difference between a report of evidence in question and answer, and one only in the answers, will appear in a moment, if we take a passage from this very evidence of Mrs. Lisle, in which, for instance, she says;

“At Lady Sheffield's Her Royal Highness paid more attention to Mr. Chester than to the rest of the Company. I knew Her Royal Highness walk out alone with Mr. Chester twice in the morning; once a short time it rained—the other not an hour—not long. Mr. Chester is a pretty young man.”

Now, this, though quite sufficient for a judge, or for a jury, who had heard the questions, must have, on mere readers of the deposition, a very different effect from that which would naturally be produced by the reading of the same thing in question and answer; thus:

At Lady Sheffield's did Her Royal Highness pay more attention to Mr. Chester than to the rest of the company?—*Yes*.—Did you know Her Royal Highness walk out alone with Mr. Chester?—*Yes*; she walked out twice in the morning: once a short time it rained—the other not an hour—not long.—Is Mr. Chester a handsome young man?—*He is pretty*.

You see, my friend, the statement is



precisely the same *in words*; but, the impression it conveys is very different indeed. As the story stands in the deposition, stripped of the form of question and answer, it would appear to come *voluntarily* from Mrs. Lisle; and the circumstance of Mr. Chester being *a pretty young man* would naturally, in the mind of the mass of readers, appear to have *occurred to Mrs. Lisle herself* as the CAUSE of the Princess's *attention to him more than to the rest of the company*, and also as the CAUSE of the *walks with him alone*. Therefore, though it was the duty of the four Lords to use all possible means to get at the truth as to every circumstance; and though they, in recording the evidence, followed the usual practice of judges and magistrates, we cannot help lamenting that they did not think it necessary to put down and report the questions as well as the answers. Lord Ellenborough appears to have thought, that he and his coadjutors had been charged with a *falsification of evidence*; a *suppression of evidence*; but, really, I did not so understand Mr. Whitbread. I understood him simply to say; that, if the questions as well as the answers, in the case of Mrs. Lisle, had been given, the impression produced by her evidence, upon the mind of the reader of it, would be different from what it must be while nothing but the answers were seen. It seems to have been understood, that Mr. Whitbread had stated, that the evidence was *taken down by the four Lords in question and answer*, and that they put *only the answers into the deposition*. But, this is not the way in which I understood him. I understood him to say, that he had obtained a copy of the answers accompanied by the questions; but, not to say that the questions had been taken down by the four Lords, and afterwards suppressed by them; and, in short, the only points upon which there seems to have been any real difference of opinion were these: whether, in the first place, it was right to put *leading questions*; and whether, in the next place, the questions ought not, in this case to have been given as well as the answers.

The defence of the Princess is so complete and every way satisfactory upon the evidence of Mrs. Lisle, that I can hardly think it necessary for me to say any thing more about it; but, there is one point or two on which I cannot refrain from making a few observations. She says, that "Her Royal Highness behaved to Capt. Manby *ONLY* as *any woman* would who likes

"*flirting*;" and, in another place she calls the conduct of the Princess "*ONLY* a *flirting conduct*." The word *to flirt* means, in its proper sense, to *banter* or *jeer*. I know not, for my part, what other sense *can* be given to it; and, therefore, all that Mrs. Lisle says here is, that the Princess behaved with Captain Manby like a woman who likes *bantering* and *joking*. — Lord preserve all our wives from such a scrutiny! I am really afraid, that it would be too much even for those most amiable and most virtuous of creatures, the sleek sisterhood of Pennsylvania. And yet, as you see by the Report, Mrs. Lisle's evidence did, in the opinion of the Four Lords, give rise to unfavourable interpretations. Judge, then, to what a pitch we, in this country, carry our notions of female decorum!

The word *ONLY* seems, however, to take the sting completely out of this part of Mrs. Lisle's evidence; for, if she had meant by the word *flirting*, any thing *criminal*, any thing *vicious*, any thing *indecent*, any thing *gross*, any thing *indecorous*, any thing *improper*, she would never have prefixed to it the word *ONLY*. She would not have said *only criminal*, *only vicious*, *only indecent*, *only gross*, *only indecorous*, or, *only improper*; and, if it was something, which was neither criminal, vicious, indecent, gross, indecorous, nor improper; if it was neither of these, in the name of common sense, what *harm* was there in it; and, in what way could it possibly give rise to *unfavourable interpretations*? You see, too, that Mrs. Lisle must have had some question put to her which drew forth the word *ONLY*; so that, this word must be taken to exclude all that is not included in the word *flirting*; and, of course, to shut out every thing of a higher cast than that of *flirting*, which means neither more nor less than *bantering*. You yourself are a very sober, grave man, and not at all likely to wink at improper conduct in any woman, especially a married woman, though separated from her husband without any fault of her's; but, would you, if you were told, that such a woman were given to banter, and did actually banter, with a man in the presence of several other women, think it right to give an *unfavourable interpretation* to her conduct on that account?

But, Mrs. Lisle says, as is stated in the deposition (see Register, p. 466), that "she would not have *THOUGHT* that any *married woman* would have behaved *pro-*



"*perly*, who behaved as the Princess did "to Captain Manby." Now, you will observe, that Mr. Whitbread stated, that there was a question put here as to whether Mrs. Lisle would have liked to see such conduct in her own daughter, who had just then died; and that she replied, that her daughter *lived in the same house with her husband*. However, leaving this circumstance quite out of the question, does not the Princess, in her defence, complain with some reason of having the *opinion* of Mrs. Lisle, or of any body else, set up against her conduct? When witnesses are called and sworn as to the *acts* of accused persons, is it usual to ask the *opinions* of those witnesses as to the nature of those acts? Besides, the opinion here given was in answer to a general question. Any married woman; not any married woman *living separated from her husband*, which makes all the difference in the world. For, you will readily agree, that the bantering ascribed to the Princess, the talking more to Captain Manby than to the ladies, might be very excusable in a married woman living separated from her husband, though it might not be so easily excused in one living with her husband, and whose duty it would be to avoid every sort of familiarity likely to give that husband the smallest degree of uneasiness. Mrs. Lisle might very consistently have thought, that the Princess's conduct to Captain Manby was perfectly innocent and right, and yet she might have thought, that such conduct would not be right in *any* married woman without exception, and without attention being paid to the peculiar circumstances of the case. She does not say, you will observe, that such conduct would, in her opinion, have been proper in **NO** married woman. You will pay particular attention to that. She only says, that, such conduct would not, in her opinion, have been proper in **ANY** married woman without exception; that is to say, that it would not have been, in her opinion, a conduct proper for *all* married women, meaning, of course, to be understood to be speaking of women living as married women generally live.

Is this splitting of hairs? If it be, the fault is not mine. Importance has been given to trifles, and it is not, therefore, our fault if we treat them as being important.

But I have now, my good friend, said every thing that I think it necessary to say relative to the charges against the Princess of Wales. I therefore dismiss the subject

altogether, I think it right to notice a letter, published on the 27th of March by *Earl Moira*, who, as you will have perceived, has been pretty much concerned in some part of these transactions. In this letter his Lordship denies having gone to Lord Eardley's to seek, amongst the servants there, for evidence against the Princess. He asserts, that the information came first from Lord Eardley to the Prince; that the Prince listened to it reluctantly; that the servants came to Lord Moira, and he did not go to them; that he found their stories unworthy of notice; that he, therefore, advised the Prince to do nothing in the business; and that it was his advice and the Prince's desire that no talk should take place on the subject.

His Lordship then gives his explanation as to the much more important point; the examination, by him, of Messrs. Mills and Edmeades, on the subject of the fact stated by Fanny Lloyd, respecting what one of those gentlemen had said as to the supposed pregnancy of the Princess. This is a point of so much consequence, that, in justice to the character of his Lordship, I shall insert the whole of that part of his letter which relates to it. "The interviews with Dr. Mills and Mr. Edmeades did not take place till between three and four years after the examination of Lord Eardley's servants, and had no reference to it. Fanny Lloyd, a maid servant in the Princess's family, had, in an examination to which I was not privy, asserted Dr. Mills to have mentioned to her that the Princess was pregnant; a deposition which obviously made it necessary that Dr. Mills should be subjected to examination. This happened to be discussed before me; and it was my suggestion that it would be more delicate to request the attendance of Dr. Mills at my house, and to have him meet the Magistrate there, to avoid the publicity and observation should be entailed by his being summoned to the Office in Marlborough-street. Dr. Mills came early, and then it was immediately discovered that it was his partner, Mr. Edmeades, who had bled Fanny Lloyd, though the latter (knowing the Princess's apothecary to be Dr. Mills, and imagining it was that apothecary who had bled her) had founded the names. Dr. Mills was therefore dismissed, without being examined by the magistrate; and he was begged to send Mr. Edmeades on another morning. Mr. Edmeades came





“accordingly, and was examined before  
 “the magistrate. An attempt is made to  
 “pervert an observation of mine into an  
 “endeavour to make Mr. Edmeades alter  
 “his testimony injuriously for the Prin-  
 “cess. So far from there being any thing  
 “of conciliation in my tone, Mr. Connant  
 “must well remember my remark to have  
 “been made as a correction of what I  
 “deemed a premeditated and improper  
 “pertness of manner in Mr. Edmeades.—  
 “It was an unmitigated profession of my  
 “belief that he was using some subterfuge  
 “to justify his denial; a declaration little  
 “calculated to win him to pliancy, had I  
 “been desirous of influencing his testimony.  
 “My conviction on that point remains un-  
 “changed. One or other of the parties  
 “was wilfully incorrect in their statement;  
 “if Fanny Lloyd were so, it was down-  
 “right perjury; Mr. Edmeades might  
 “have answered only elusively. I have  
 “been told that some individual, pointing  
 “at the direct opposition between the affi-  
 “davits of Mr. Edmeades and Fanny  
 “Lloyd has indicated the preferable cre-  
 “dit which ought to be given to the oath  
 “of a well-educated man, in a liberal  
 “walk of life, over that of a person in the  
 “humble station of a maid servant. I  
 “shall not discuss the justice of the prin-  
 “ciple which arbitrarily assumes deficien-  
 “cy of moral rectitude to be the natural  
 “inference from humility of condition.  
 “The inculcation in the present instance  
 “would have been somewhat more ra-  
 “tional, had it advised that, in a case of  
 “such absolute contradiction upon a simple  
 “fact, the comprehension of which could  
 “have nothing to do with education, you  
 “should consider on which side an obvi-  
 “ous temptation to laxity appears. Fanny  
 “Lloyd was not merely a reluctant witness,  
 “but had expressed the greatest indigna-  
 “tion at being subject to examination.  
 “When she swore positively to a circum-  
 “stance admitting of no latitude, the only  
 “thing to be weighed was, what probabi-  
 “lity of inducement existed for her swear-  
 “ing that which she knew to be false. It  
 “will appear that her testimony on that  
 “point was not consonant to the partiality  
 “which she had proclaimed; that by the  
 “other parts of her evidence she was bar-  
 “ring the way to reward, if any profligate  
 “hopes of remuneration led her to risk the  
 “falsehood; and that she could not be in-  
 “fluenced by malice against Mr. Ed-  
 “meades, with whom it was clear she  
 “was unacquainted. Nothing, therefore,

“presented itself, to throw an honest doubt  
 “upon her veracity. Mr. Edmeades was  
 “very differently circumstanced. A cha-  
 “racter for dangerous chattering was abso-  
 “lute ruin to him in his profession. He  
 “had the strongest of all motives to exo-  
 “nerate himself from the charge, if he  
 “could hit upon any equivocation by which  
 “he might satisfy himself in the denial of  
 “it. And the bearing of my remark must  
 “not be misunderstood. No man would  
 “infer any thing against the Princess on  
 “the ground of such a random guess as  
 “that of Mr. Edmeades’ must have been,  
 “unless Mr. Edmeades should support his  
 “proposition by the adduction of valid rea-  
 “sons and convincing circumstances; but  
 “there was a consequence ascribable to it  
 “in its loosest state. His having been  
 “sufficiently indiscreet to mention his spe-  
 “culation to others as well as to Fanny  
 “Lloyd, would well account for what was  
 “otherwise incomprehensible; namely, the  
 “notion of the Princess’s pregnancy so ge-  
 “nerally entertained at Greenwich and in  
 “that neighbourhood. It was my convic-  
 “tion that such indiscretion had taken  
 “place, not any belief of the fact to which  
 “it related, that I endeavoured to convey  
 “by remark.—This construction is not  
 “put upon the circumstances now, for the  
 “first time. A paper of mine submitted  
 “to His Majesty at the period of the in-  
 “vestigation, and lodged with the other  
 “documents relative to that inquiry, re-  
 “buts in the same terms the base attempt  
 “of insinuating conspiracy against the  
 “Princess. *Why that paper has not seen  
 “the light with the other documents may be  
 “surmised.* I had thought it incumbent  
 “on me, from the nature of the transaction,  
 “not to furnish any means for its publica-  
 “tion from the copy in my possession.  
 “The present explanation unavoidably  
 “states all the material points contained in  
 “it. But it will be felt by every one that  
 “the detail has been extorted from me.”

I will offer you no remark upon his  
 Lordship’s explanation as to the point  
 above dwelt upon. He still gives the pre-  
 ference to the testimony of Fanny Lloyd;  
 and it is not for me to express any doubt  
 of his sincerity; but, I must still be al-  
 lowed to express my wonder, that, when  
 Fanny Lloyd’s Declaration was laid before  
 the King amongst the documents *confirm-  
 atory* of Lady Douglas’s Statement, the *op-  
 posing* declarations of Dr. Mills and Mr.  
 Edmeades were not laid before the King  
 along with it. The King would then have



been able to form *his* opinion of the veracity of the parties respectively.

In the conclusion of the paragraph of the letter of Lord Moira above cited, he complains of a paper of his having been kept out of sight; and says, that the *reason* "may be *surmised*." I wish his Lordship had helped me in this; for, I must confess, that I cannot surmise it. The other documents have been published through the same channel that was selected for the conveying of his Letter to the public; and why his paper has been kept back I, for my part, cannot imagine. It was, it seems, intended to rebut the insinuation, in the Princess's defence, against him as having been a participator in a conspiracy against her. But, it was, at any rate, in the hands of his friends, the present ministers, under whom he is serving in a very high situation. He has, certainly, not to blame his old friends and colleagues, the Whigs, for keeping this paper back. The fault, if it lie any where, must lie amongst those with whom he has, for some time past, been connected; and, therefore, he has, in some sort, himself only to blame.

Before I conclude this my last letter upon the subject, I must observe to you, that there never was, perhaps, any one occasion, in which public opinion was so decided and unanimous as upon this. There is not a creature to be found, in any rank of life, who is not on the side of the Princess; who does not regard her as the most calumniated of women, and who does not hold her base assailants in detestation. You will recollect the passages, which, in my first Letters upon the subject, I quoted from our hired news-papers, reviling the advisers of the Princess; calling them a disloyal faction; attributing to her rashness, weakness, folly, and even impudence; menacing her with a fresh inquiry; and, in short, abusing every person, who, in any way, seemed to take her part. You will remember, on the other hand, that I said, she was pursuing good advice, and that the result would prove the advantages of her showing her resolution no longer to submit in silence.

Now, hear the language of one of those same prints (the Morning Post) of the 26th of March:—"The triumph of the much injured Princess of Wales may now be considered as most proudly complete. All the *new attempts* to blast her fair fame, have, like the former *conspiracy* against her honour and her life, ended

"only in the confusion and disgrace of her *perjured* calumniators. No discovery whatever, that could by the most forced construction of the most inveterate, be deemed injurious to Her Royal Highness, could, by possibility, be made or produced against her; and the public will rejoice to hear, that this heart-rending question, excepting only as far as regards the *punishment of her infamous and perjured accusers* (for which, in the name of justice, and in the crying cause of injured innocence, we shall never cease to call) is thus completely, most satisfactorily and happily, set for ever at rest. May this joyous result prove the *first step towards the respect which justice and propriety require to be shewn to this illustrious Lady*; and still further we pray, may it be the happy prelude to the re-establishment of concord, peace, and bliss, among all the branches of that Illustrious Family, in whose tranquillity and happiness every good and *loyal subject* must feel so deep and serious an interest."

Aye, you caitiff Editor, but you said, only six weeks ago, that all those who, like myself, were labouring to establish, in the eyes of the world, the innocence of this injured Princess, were enemies of the Royal Family, and belonged to a desperate and bloody-minded faction; aye, and it is only your own baseness, your base fear of the effects of popular hatred, that has induced you to change your tone.

Well, but the "joyous result" of which you are speaking, is the *first step*, it seems, "which *justice and propriety* require to be shown to this illustrious Lady." What is the *second*? Why, that which I proposed more than a year ago; namely, the *enabling of Her Royal Highness to hold a court*. This is as just now as the *receiving of her at court* was in 1807. Her husband is now become Regent, clothed with all the powers and splendour of a king; and, why is she not to hold her court? Why is she to be kept in obscurity? A free intercourse with her daughter follows of course; but, a court is absolutely necessary to wipe away all remains of imputation; to do her complete justice in the eyes of the whole world.

In the mean while, however, the newspapers inform me, that the Citizens of London are about to meet in order to present to Her Royal Highness a loyal and affectionate address upon this occasion. That this is a proper measure, and worthy

of the example of the whole nation, you will, I am sure, readily allow. 'It is not only the duty, but it is the *interest*, of the people to step forward and cause themselves to be heard upon such occasions. To hold their tongues, in such cases, is tacitly to acknowledge that they are *nothing*, and, of course, that their opinions may safely be despised by their rulers.

Nevertheless, I have heard, and, indeed, not with much surprise, that there are certain persons in the City of London, attached to the faction called the Whigs, who are disposed to discourage these public demonstrations of the feeling of the people. It is easy to conceive, that they must dislike any thing tending to throw a slur upon their party; they know, that it was their party, who, with the Princess's defence before them, hesitated four months before they advised the King to receive her at court, and then only accompanied with an *admonition*, that admonition which every human being is now ready to pronounce judgment upon. An address to Her Royal Highness would necessarily be a condemnation of the Whig ministry; and, therefore, it is that its partisans are endeavouring to prevent such a measure on the part of any portion of the people.

But, was there ever so fit an occasion for an address? When the King was thought to have been in danger from the pen-knife of a poor old mad-woman, addresses of loyalty, affection, and of congratulation at his escape, poured in from every county, city, and town in his dominions; and, shall those who were filled with horror at the attempt of *Peg Nicholson*, be silent at the discovery of the attempt of *Lady Douglas* and her coadjutors? Shall those who were so loud in their cries of abhorrence on the former occasion, be now dumb as posts? The *life* of the King was then attempted; and has not the *life* of the Princess of Wales been now attempted? Aye, and by means, too, much more infamous than

those which poor old crazy Peg is said to have employed. What was Peg's pen-knife when compared to the conspiracy against the Princess? To be sure, in this case, the carrying up of an address will be attended with no creation of Knights. This is, really, the only difference in the two cases; except that in the present case the party to be addressed stands in need of the support of the people.

It would give me, on another account, singular satisfaction to see the Princess receive those marks of the approbation of the people. Those marks of approbation could not fail to make on her mind, as well as on the mind of her daughter, who has so strong an affection for her, an impression favourable to popular rights; to endear the people to them, and to show them, that, after all, the preservation of the people's liberties and privileges is the best guarantee, is far more efficacious than armies and sinecure place-men, in the support of the throne and the Royal Family. When the City of London shall have carried their Address to the Princess of Wales; when they shall have expressed their detestation of the conspiracy against her life and honour, Her Royal Highness and her Daughter will have to compare the conduct of *the people* with that of those *orders*, whom the enemies of liberty have represented as *the great props of the throne*. What an useful lesson will this be to give to her, who, in the course of nature, is destined to be our Sovereign! It ought to make, and I have no doubt that it will make, a strong and lasting impression upon her mind; that it will arm her before-hand against those parasites (never wanting to a court), who would persuade her that every right possessed by the people is so much taken from her; that it will lead her to respect instead of despising, to confide in instead of suspecting, to love and cherish instead of hating and harassing, the people, whose good sense, whose love of justice, whose



abhorrence of baseness and cruelty, have proved the best safe-guards of the life and honour of her Mother.

I have now, my good friend, completed the task which I had imposed upon myself. I have done all that lay in my power to make the innocence and the injuries of the Princess of Wales known to the world; and, though, in the performance of this task, I have been animated with a consciousness that I was discharging a sacred duty to my country, I have derived additional satisfaction from the ever-recurring thought that I was addressing myself to you, and giving you, if that death which you fear not has not yet closed your eyes, a renewed proof of my unalterable gratitude and esteem.

WM. COBBETT.

*Bolley, 2d April, 1813.*

### THE BOOK.

*(Continued from page 480, and concluded.)*

pretend to say—I mean on occasion of two water parties which I intended, one of which did not take place at all, and the other not so early in the day as was intended, nor was its object effected. Once I intended to pay Admiral Montague a visit to Deal; but wind and tide not serving, we sailed much later than we intended; and instead of landing at Deal, the Admiral came on board our vessel, and we returned to East Cliff in the evening; on which occasion Captain Manby was not of the party, nor was he in the Downs—but it is very possible, that having prepared to set off early, I might have walked down towards the sea, and been seen by Fanny Lloyd. On the other occasion, Captain Manby was to have been of the party, and it was to have been on board his ship. I desired him to be early at my house in the morning, and if the day suited me, we would go. He came; I walked with him towards the sea, to look at the morning; I did not like the appearance of the weather, and did not go to sea. Upon either of these occasions Fanny Lloyd might have been called up to make breakfast, and might have seen me walking. As to the orders not having been given her over night; to that I can say nothing.—But upon this statement, what inference can be intended to be drawn from this fact? It is the only one in which F. Lloyd's evidence can in any degree be applied to Captain Manby; and she is one of the important witnesses referred to, as proving something which must particularly, as with regard to Captain Manby, be credited till contradicted, and as deserving the most serious consideration. From the examination of Mrs. Fitzgerald I collect, that she was asked whether Captain Manby ever slept in the house at East Cliff; to which she, to the best of her knowledge, answers in the negative. Is this evidence then of Fanny Lloyd's relied upon, to afford an inference that Captain Manby slept in my house; or was there at an im-

proper hour? or in a manner, and under circumstances, which afforded reason for unfavourable interpretations? If this were so, can it be believed that I would, under such circumstances, have taken a step, such as calling for breakfast, at an unusual hour, which must have made the fact more notorious and remarkable, and brought the attention of the servants, who must have waited at the breakfast, more particularly and pointedly to it?

But if there be any thing which rests, or is supposed to rest, upon the credit of this witness—though she is one of the four, whose credit your Majesty will recollect it has been stated that there was no reason to question, yet she stands in a predicament in which, in general, at least, I had understood it to be supposed, that the credit of a witness was not only questionable, but materially shaken. For, towards the beginning of her examination, she states, that Mr. Mills attended her for a cold; he asked her if the Prince came to Blackheath backwards and forwards; or something to that effect: for the Princess was with child; or looked as if she was with child. This must have been three or four years ago. She thought it must be some time before the child (W. Austin) was brought to the Princess. To this fact she positively swears, and in this she is as positively contradicted by Mr. Mills; for he swears, in his deposition before the Commissioners, that he never did say to her, or any one, that the Princess was with child, or looked as if she was with child;—that he never thought so, nor surmised any thing of the kind. Mr. Mills has a partner, Mr. Edmeades. The Commissioners therefore, conceiving that Fanny Lloyd might have mistaken one of the partners for the other, examine Mr. Edmeades also. Mr. Edmeades, in his deposition, is equally positive that he never said any such thing—so the matter rests upon these depositions; and upon that state of it, what pretence is there for saying, that a witness who swears to a conversation with a medical person, who attended me, of so extremely important a nature, and is so expressly and decidedly contradicted in the important fact which she speaks to, is a witness whose credit there appears no reason to question? This important circumstance must surely have been overlooked when that statement was made.—But this fact of Mr. Mills and Mr. Edmeades's contradiction of Fanny Lloyd, appears to your Majesty, for the first time, from the examination before the Commissioners.—But this is the fact which I charge as having been known to those who are concerned in bringing forward this information, and which, nevertheless, was not communicated to your Majesty.—The fact that Fanny Lloyd declared, that Mr. Mills told her the Princess was with child, is stated in the declarations which were delivered to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and by him forwarded to your Majesty.—The fact that Mr. Mills denied ever having so said, though known at the same time, is not stated.—That I may not appear to have represented so strange a fact, without sufficient authority, I subjoin the declaration of Mr. Mills, and the deposition of Mr. Edmeades, which prove it. Fanny Lloyd's original declaration which was delivered to His Royal Highness, is dated on the 12th of February. It appears to have been taken at the Temple; I conclude therefore at the chambers of Mr. Lowten, Sir John Douglas's

*X 12th of May*



solicitor, who, according to Mr. Cole, accompanied him to Cheltenham to procure some of these declarations. On the 13th of February, the next day after Fanny Lloyd's declaration, the Earl of Moira sends for Mr. Mills, upon pressing business. Mr. Mills attends him on the 14th; he is asked by his Lordship upon the subject of this conversation; he is told he may rely upon his Lordship's honour, that what passed should be in perfect confidence; (a confidence which Mr. Mills, feeling it to be on a subject too important to his character, at the moment disclaims;)—that it was his (the Earl of Moira's) duty to his Prince, as his counsellor, to inquire into the subject, which he had known for some time.—Fanny Lloyd's statement being then related to Mr. Mills, Mr. Mills, with great warmth, declared that it was an infamous falsehood.—Mr. Lowten, who appears also to have been there by appointment, was called into the room, and he furnished Mr. Mills with the date to which Fanny Lloyd's declaration applied. The meeting ends in Lord Moira's desiring to see Mr. Mills's partner, Mr. Edmeades, who, not being at home cannot attend him for a few days. He does, however, upon his return, attend him on the 20th of May: on his attendance, instead of Mr. Lowten, he finds Mr. Conant, the magistrate, with Lord Moira. He denies the conversation with Fanny Lloyd, as positively and peremptorily as Mr. Mills. Notwithstanding however all this, the Declaration of Fanny Lloyd is delivered to His Royal Highness, unaccompanied by these contradictions, and forwarded to your Majesty on the 29th. That Mr. Lowten was the Solicitor of Sir John Douglas in this business, cannot be doubted, that he took some of those declarations, which were laid before your Majesty, is clear; and that he took this declaration of Fanny Lloyd's, seems not to be questionable. That the inquiry by Earl Moira, two days after her declaration was taken, must have been in consequence of an early communication of it to him, seems necessarily to follow from what is above stated; that it was known, on the 14th of May, that Mr. Mills contradicted this assertion; and, on the 20th, that Mr. Edmeades did, is perfectly clear; and yet, notwithstanding all this, the fact, that Mr. Edmeades and Mr. Mills contradicted it, seems to have been not communicated to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, for he, as it appears from the Report, forwarded the declarations which had been delivered to His Royal Highness, through the Chancellor, to your Majesty: and the declaration of Fanny Lloyd, which had been so falsified, to the knowledge of the Earl Moira and of Mr. Lowten, the Solicitor for Sir John Douglas, is sent into your Majesty as one of the documents, on which you were to ground your inquiry, unaccompanied by its falsification by Mills and Edmeades; at least, no declarations by them are amongst those, which are transmitted to me, as copies of the original declarations which were laid before your Majesty. I know not whether it was Lord Moira, or Mr. Lowten, who should have communicated this circumstance to His Royal Highness, but that, in all fairness, it ought unquestionably to have been communicated by some one.—I dare not trust myself with any inferences from this proceeding; I content myself with remarking, that it must now be felt, that I was jus-

tified in saying, that neither His Royal Highness, nor your Majesty, any more than myself, had been fairly dealt with, in not being fully informed upon this important fact; and your Majesty will forgive a weak, unprotected woman, like myself, who, under such circumstances, should apprehend that, however Sir John and Lady Douglas may appear my ostensible accusers, I have other enemies, whose ill-will I may have occasion to fear, without feeling myself assured, that it will be strictly regulated, in its proceeding against me, by the principles of fairness and of justice.—I have now, Sire, gone through all the evidence which respects Captain Manby; whether at Montague House, Southend, or East Cliff, and I do trust, that your Majesty will see, upon the whole of it, how mistaken a view the Commissioners have taken of it. The pressure of other duties engrossing their time and their attention, has made them leave the important duties of this investigation, in many particulars, imperfectly discharged—a more thorough attention to it must have given them a better and truer insight into the characters of those witnesses, upon whose credit, as I am convinced, your Majesty will now see, they have without sufficient reason relied. There remains nothing for me, on this part of the charge to perform; but, adverting to the circumstance which is falsely sworn against me by Mr. Bidgood, of the salute, and the false inference and insinuation, from other facts, that Captain Manby slept in my house, either at Southend, or East Cliff, on my own part most solemnly to declare, that they are both utterly false; that Bidgood's assertion as to the salute, is a malicious slanderous invention, without the slightest shadow of truth to support it; that his suspicions and insinuations, as to Captain Manby's having slept in my house, are also the false suggestions of his own malicious mind; and that Captain Manby never did, to my knowledge or belief, sleep in my House at Southend, East Cliff, or any other house of mine whatever; and, however often he may have been in my company, I solemnly protest to your Majesty, as I have done in the former cases, that nothing ever passed between him and me, that I should be ashamed, or unwilling that all the world should have seen. And I have also, with great pain, and with a deep sense of wounded delicacy, applied to Captain Manby to attest to the same truths, and I subjoin to this letter his deposition to that effect.

I stated to your Majesty, that I should be obliged to return to other parts of Fanny Lloyd's testimony;—At the end of it she says, "I never told Cole that M. Wilson, when she supposed the Princess to be in the library, had gone into the Princess's bed-room, and had found a man there at breakfast with the Princess; or that there was a great to do about it, and that M. Wilson was sworn to secrecy, and threatened to be turned away, if she divulged what she had seen." This part of her examination, your Majesty will perceive, must have been called from her, by some precise question, addressed to her, with respect to a supposed communication from her to Mr. Cole. In Mr. Cole's examination, there is not one word upon the subject of it. In his original declaration, however, there is; and there your Majesty will perceive, that he affirms the fact of her having reported to him Mary Wilson's declaration in the very same words in which Fanny Lloyd denies it, and it is therefore evi-

9 13<sup>th</sup> of May



dent that the Commissioners, in putting this question to Fanny Lloyd, must have put it to her from Cole's declaration. She positively denies the fact; there is then a flat and precise contradiction, between the examination of Fanny Lloyd and the original statement of Mr. Cole. It is therefore impossible that they both can have spoken true. The Commissioners, for some reason, don't examine Cole to this point at all; don't endeavour to trace out this story; if they had, they must have discovered which of these witnesses spoke the truth, but they leave this contradiction not only unexplained, but uninquied after and in that state, report both these witnesses, *Cole and Fanny Lloyd*, who thus speak to the two sides of a contradiction, and who therefore cannot by possibility both speak truth, as witnesses who cannot be suspected of partiality, whose credit they see no reason to question, and whose story must be believed till contradicted.

—But what is, if possible, still more extraordinary, this supposed communication from F. Lloyd to Cole, as your Majesty observes, relates to something which M. Wilson is supposed to have seen and to have said; yet though M. Wilson appears herself to have been examined by the Commissioners on the same day with Fanny Lloyd, in the copy of her examination, as delivered to me, there is no trace of any question relating to this declaration having been put to her.

And I have not less reason to lament than to be surprised, that it did not occur to the Commissioners, to see the necessity of following this inquiry still further; for, if properly pursued, it would have demonstrated two things, both very important to be kept in mind in the whole of this consideration. First, how hearsay representations of this kind, arising out of little or nothing, become magnified and exaggerated by the circulation of prejudiced or malicious Reports; and, secondly, it would have shewn the industry of Mr. and Mrs. Bidgood, as well as Mr. Cole, in collecting information in support of Lady Douglas's statement, and in improving what they collected by their false colourings and malicious additions to it. They would have found a story in Mrs. Bidgood's declaration, as well as in her husband's (who relates it as having heard it from his wife), which is evidently the same as that which W. Cole's declaration contains; for the Bidgoods' declarations state, that Fanny Lloyd told Mrs. Bidgood, that Mary Wilson had gone into the Princess's bed-room, and had found Her Royal Highness and Sir Sydney in the most criminal situation; that she had left the room, and was so shocked, that she fainted away at the door. Here, then, are Mrs. Bidgood and Mr. Cole, both declaring what they had heard Fanny Lloyd say, and Fanny Lloyd denying it. How extraordinary is it that they were not all confronted! and your Majesty will see presently how much it is to be lamented that they were not; for, from Fanny Lloyd's original declaration, it appears that the truth would have come out, as she there states, that, "to the best of her knowledge, Mary Wilson said, that she had seen the Princess and Sir Sydney in the *Blue Room*, but never heard Mary Wilson say she was so alarmed as to be in a fit." If then, on confronting Fanny Lloyd with Mrs. Bidgood and Mr. Cole, the Commissioners had found Fanny Lloyd's story to be what she related before, and had then put the question to Mary Wilson, and had heard from her what it really was which she

had seen and related to Fanny Lloyd, they could not have been at a loss to have discovered which of these witnesses told the truth. They would have found, I am perfectly confident, that all that Mary Wilson ever could have told Fanny Lloyd, was that she had seen Sir Sidney and myself in the blue room, and they would then have had to refer to the malicious, and confederated inventions of the Bidgoods and Mr. Cole, for the conversion of the blue-room into the bed-room; for the vile slander of what M. Wilson was supposed to have seen, and for the violent effect which this scene had upon her. I say their *confederated inventions*, as it is impossible to suppose that they could have been concerned in inventing the same additions to Fanny Lloyd's story, unless they had communicated together upon it. And when they had once found Mrs. Bidgood and Mr. Cole, thus conspiring together, they would have had no difficulty in connecting them both in the same conspiracy with Sir John Douglas, by shewing how connected Cole was with Sir John Douglas, and how acquainted with his proceedings, in collecting the evidence which was to support Lady Douglas's declaration.

For, by referring to Mr. Cole's declaration, made on the 23d of February, they would have seen that Mr. Cole, in explaining some observation about Sir Sidney's supposed possession of a key to the garden-door, says that it was what "Mr. Lampert, the servant of Sir John Douglas, mentioned at Cheltenham to Sir John Douglas and Mr. Lowten."—How should Mr. Cole know that Sir John Douglas and Mr. Lowten had been down to Cheltenham, to collect evidence from this old servant of Sir John Douglas? How should he have known what that evidence was? unless he had either accompanied them himself, or at least had had such a communication either with Sir John Douglas, or Mr. Lowten, as it never could have occurred to any of them to have made to Mr. Cole, unless, instead of being a mere witness, he were a party to this accusation? But whether they had convinced themselves, that Fanny Lloyd spoke true, and Cole and Mrs. Bidgood falsely; or whether they had convinced themselves of the reverse, it could not have been possible, that they both could have spoken the truth; and, consequently, the Commissioners could never have reported the veracity of both to be free from suspicion, and deserving of credit.—There only remains that I should make a few observations on what appears in the examinations relative to Mr. Hood (now Lord Hood), Mr. Chester, and Captain Moore: and I really should not have thought a single observation necessary upon either of them, except that what refers to them is stated in the examinations of Mrs. Lisle.—With respect to Lord Hood, it is as follows:—"I was at Catherington with the Princess; remember Mr. (now Lord Hood) there, and the Princess going out airing with him, alone in Mr. Hood's little whiskey; and his servant was with them; Mr. Hood drove, and staid out two or three times; more than once; three or four times. Mr. Hood dined with us several times; once or twice he slept in a house in the garden; she appeared to pay no attention to him, but that of common civility to an intimate acquaintance." Now, Sire, it is undoubtedly true that I drove out several times with Lord Hood in his one-horse chaise, and some few times, twice, I believe, at most, without any of my servants attending us; and considering the



time of life, and the respectable character of my Lord Hood, I never should have conceived that I incurred the least danger to my reputation in so doing. If, indeed, it was the duty of the Commissioners to inquire into instances of my conduct, in which they may conceive it to have been less reserved and dignified than what would properly become the exalted station which I hold in your Majesty's Royal Family, it is possible that, in the opinions of some, these drives with my Lord Hood were not consistent with that station, and that they were particularly improper in those instances in which we were not attended by more servants, or any servants of my own. Upon this I have only to observe, that these instances occurred after I had received the news of the lamented death of your Majesty's brother, the Duke of Gloucester, I was at that time down by the sea-side for my health. I did not like to forego the advantage of air and exercise for the short remainder of the time which I had to stay there; and I purposely chose to go out, not in my own carriage, and unattended, that I might not be seen, and known to be driving about (myself and my attendants out of mourning) while His Royal Highness was known to have been so recently dead. This statement, however, is all that I have to make upon my part of the case; and whatever indecorum or impropriety of behaviour the Commissioners have fixed upon me by this circumstance, it must remain; for I cannot deny the truth of the fact, and have only the above explanation to offer of it. As to what Mrs. Lisle's examination contains with respect to Mr. Chester and Captain Moore, it is so connected, that I must trouble your Majesty with the statement of it altogether.

"I was with Her Royal Highness at Lady Sheffield's, at Christmas, in Sussex. I inquired what company was there when I came; she said, only Mr. John Chester, who was there by Her Royal Highness's orders; that she could get no other company to meet her, on account of the roads and the season of the year. He dined and slept there that night. The next day other company came; Mr. Chester remained. I heard her Royal Highness say she had been ill in the night, and came out for a light, and lighted her candle in her servant's room. I returned from Sheffield-place to Blackheath with the Princess; Captain Moore dined there; I left him and the Princess twice alone, for a short time; he might be alone half an hour with her in the room below, in which we had been sitting. I went to look for a book to complete a set Her Royal Highness was lending Captain Moore. She made him a present of an inkstand, to the best of my recollection. He was there one morning in January last, on the Princess Charlotte's birth-day; he went away before the rest of the company. I might be about twenty minutes the second time I was away, the night Captain Moore was there. At Lady Sheffield's Her Royal Highness paid more attention to Mr. Chester than to the rest of the Company. I know of Her Royal Highness walking out alone; twice, with Mr. Chester, in the morning alone; once, a short time, it rained; the other not an hour, not long. Mr. Chester is a pretty young man; her attentions to him were not uncommon; not the same as to Captain Manby."

At first, Sire, as to what relates to Mr. Chester. If there is any imputation to be cast upon my character by what passed at Sheffield-place with Mr. Chester (and by the Commissioners return-

ing to examine Mrs. Lisle upon my attention to Mr. Chester, my walking out with him, and, above all, "as to his being a pretty young man," I conceive it to be so intended), I am sure your Majesty will see, that it is the hardest thing imaginable upon me, that, upon an occurrence which passed in Lady Sheffield's house, on a visit to her, Lady Sheffield herself was never examined; for, if she had been, I am convinced that these noble Lords, the Commissioners, never could have put me to the painful degradation of stating any thing upon this subject.—The statement begins by Mrs. Lisle's inquiring, what company was there? and Lady Sheffield saying, "only Mr. John Chester, who was there by Her Royal Highness's orders; that she could get no other company, on account of the roads." Is not this, Sire, left open to the inference that Mr. John Chester was the only person who had been invited by my orders? If Lady Sheffield had been examined, she would have been able to have produced the very letter in which, in answer to her Ladyship's request, that I would let her know what company it would be agreeable for me to meet, I said, "every thing of the name of North, all the Legges, and Chesters, William and John, &c. &c. and Mr. Elliott." Instead of singling out, therefore, Mr. John Chester, I included him in the enumeration which I made of the near relations of Lady Sheffield; and your Majesty, from this alone, cannot fail to see how false a colour even a true fact can assume, if it be not sufficiently inquired into and explained.—As to the circumstances of my having been taken ill in the night, being obliged to get up, and light my candle; why this fact should be recorded, I am wholly at a loss to conceive. All the circumstances, however, respecting it, connected very much as they are with the particular disposition of Lady Sheffield's house, would have been fully explained, if thought material to have been inquired after, by Lady Sheffield herself; and I should have been relieved from the painful degradation of alluding at all to a circumstance which I could not further detail, without a great degree of indelicacy; and as I cannot possibly suppose such a detail can be necessary for my defence, it would, especially in addressing your Majesty, be wholly inexcusable. With respect to the attention which I paid to Mr. Chester, and my walking out twice alone with him for a short time, I know not how to notice it. At this distance of time I am not certain that I can, with perfect accuracy, account for the circumstance. It appears to have been a rainy morning; it was on the 27th or 28th of December; and whether, wishing to take a walk, I did not desire Lady Sheffield, or Mrs. Lisle, or any Lady to accompany me in doing what, in such a morning, I might think might be disagreeable to them, I really cannot precisely state to your Majesty.

—But here, again, perhaps, in the judgment of some persons, may be an instance of familiarity, which was not consistent with the dignity of the Princess of Wales; but, surely, prejudice against me and my character must exceed all natural bounds in those minds in which any inference of crime or moral depravity can be drawn from such a fact. As to Captain Moore, it seems he was left alone with me, and twice in one afternoon, by Mrs. Lisle; he was alone with me half an hour. The first time Mrs. Lisle left us, her examination says, it was to look for a book which I wished to lend to Captain Moore. How long she was absent on that occasion she is not asked;



but it could have been but ten minutes, as she appears to have been absent twenty minutes the second time. The Commissioners, though they particularly return to the inquiry with respect to the length of time of her second absence, did not require her to tell them the occasion of it; if they had, she would have told them, that it was in search of the same book; that having on the first occasion looked for it in the drawing-room, she went afterwards to see for it in Mrs. Fitzgerald's room. But I made him a present of an inkstand. I hope your Majesty will not think I am trifling with your patience when I take notice of such trifles. But it is of such trifles as these that the evidence consists, when it is the evidence of respectable witnesses speaking to facts, and, consequently, speaking only the truth. Captain Moore had conferred on me what I felt as a considerable obligation. My Mother is very partial to the late Dr. Moore's writings. Captain Moore, as your Majesty knows, is his son, and he promised to lend me, for the purpose of sending it to my mother, a manuscript of an unpublished work of the Doctor's. In return for this civility, I begged his acceptance of a trifling present.—There is one circumstance alluded to in these examinations, which I know not how to notice, and yet feel it impossible to omit: I mean what respects certain anonymous papers or letters, marked A. B. and C., to which Lord Cholmondeley appears to have been examined, upon the supposition of their being my hand-writing. A letter marked A. appears, by the examination of Lady Douglas, to have been produced by her; and the two papers marked B. and a cover marked C. appear to have been produced by Sir John. These papers I have never seen; but I collect them to be the same as are alluded to in Lady Douglas's original declaration; and, from her representation of them, they are most infamous productions. From the style and language of the letter, she says, Sir John Douglas, Sir Sydney Smith, and herself, would have no manner of hesitation in swearing point blank (for that is her phrase) to their being in my hand-writing: and it seems, from the statement of His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, that Sir Sydney Smith had been imposed upon to believe, that these letters and papers were really written and sent to Sir John and Lady Douglas by me. I cannot help, however, remarking to your Majesty, that though Sir John and Lady Douglas produce these papers, and mark them, yet neither the one nor the other swears to their belief of my hand-writing; it does not, indeed, appear, that they were asked the question; and when it once occurred to the Commissioners to be material to inquire whose hand-writing these papers were, I should have been much surprised at their not applying to Sir John and Lady Douglas to swear it, as in their original declaration they offer to do, if it had not been that, by that time, I suppose, the Commissioners had satisfied themselves of the true value of Sir John and Lady Douglas's oaths, and therefore did not think it worth while to ask them any further questions.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, as appears by his narrative, was convinced, by Sir Sidney Smith, that these letters came from me. His Royal Highness had been applied to by me, in consequence of my having received a formal note from Sir John, Lady Douglas, and Sir Sidney Smith, requesting an audience immediately: this was soon after my having desired to see no more of Lady Douglas. I conceived, therefore,

the audience was required for the purpose of remonstrance and explanation upon this circumstance; and as I was determined not to alter my resolution, nor admit of any discussion upon it, I requested His Royal Highness, who happened to be acquainted with Sir Sidney Smith, to try to prevent my having any further trouble upon the subject. His Royal Highness saw Sir Sidney Smith, and being impressed by him with the belief of Lady Douglas's story, that I was the author of these anonymous letters, he did that which naturally became him, under such belief; he endeavoured, for the peace of your Majesty, and the honour of the Royal Family, to keep from the knowledge of the world what, if it had been true, would have justly reflected such infinite disgrace upon me; and, it seems, from the narrative, that he procured, through Sir Sidney Smith, Sir John Douglas's assurance that he would, under existing circumstances, remain quiet, if left unmolested. "This result (His Royal Highness says), he communicated to me the following day, and I seemed satisfied with it." And, undoubtedly, as he only communicated the result to me, I could not be otherwise than satisfied: for as all that I wanted was, not to be obliged to see Sir John and Lady Douglas, and not to be troubled by them any more, the result of His Royal Highness's interference, through Sir Sidney Smith, was to procure me all that I wanted. I do not wonder that His Royal Highness did not mention to me the particulars of these infamous letters and drawings, which were ascribed to me; for, as long as he believed they were mine, undoubtedly it was a subject which he must have wished to avoid; but I lament, as it happens, that he did not, as I should have satisfied him as far, at least, as any assertions of mine could have satisfied him, by declaring to him, as I do now most solemnly, that the letter is not mine, and that I know nothing whatever of the contents of it, or of the other papers; and I trust that His Royal Highness, and every one else who may have taken up any false impression concerning them to my prejudice, from the assertion of Sir John and Lady Douglas, will, upon my assertion, and the evidence of Lord Cholmondeley, remove from their minds this calumnious falsehood, which, with many others, the malice of Sir John and Lady Douglas has endeavoured to fasten upon me.—To all these papers Lady Douglas states, in her Declaration, that not only herself and Sir John Douglas, but Sir Sidney Smith, would have no hesitation in swearing to be in my hand-writing. What says Lord Cholmondeley? "That he is perfectly acquainted with my manner of writing. Letter A. is not of my hand-writing; that the two papers marked B. appear to be wrote in a disguised hand; that some of the letters in them remarkably resemble mine, but, because of the disguise, he cannot say whether they are or not: as to the cover marked C. he did not see the same resemblance." Of these four papers (all of which are stated by Lady Douglas to be so clearly and plainly mine, that there can be no hesitation upon the subject), two bear no resemblance to it; and although the other two, written in a disguised hand, have some letters remarkably resembling mine, yet, I trust, I shall not, upon such evidence, be subjected to so base an imputation; and really, Sire, I know not how to account for the Commissioners examining and reporting upon this subject in this manner. For I understand from Mrs. Fitzgerald, that these



drawings were produced by the Commissioners to her; and that she was examined as to her knowledge of them, and as to the hand-writing upon them; that she was satisfied, and swore that they were not my hand-writing, and that she knew nothing of them, and did not believe they could possibly come from any lady in my house. She was shewn the seal also, which Lady Douglas, in her Declaration, says, was the "identical one with which I had summoned Sir John Douglas to luncheon." To this seal, though it so much resembled one that belonged to herself, as to make her hesitate till she had particularly observed it, she was at last as positive as to the hand-writing; and having expressed herself with some feeling and indignation at the supposition, that either I, herself, or any of my ladies, could be guilty of so foul a transaction, the Commissioners tell her they were satisfied and believed her; and there is not one word of all this related in her examination.—Now, if their Lordships were satisfied from this, or any other circumstance, that these letters were not my writing, and did not come from me, I cannot account for their not preserving any trace of Mrs. Fitzgerald's evidence on this point, and leaving it out of their inquiry altogether; but, if they thought proper to preserve any evidence upon it, to make it the subject of any examination, surely they should not have left it on Lord Cholmondeley's alone; but I ought to have had the benefit of Mrs. Fitzgerald's evidence also; but, as I said before, they take no notice of her evidence; nay, they finish their Report, they execute it according to the date it bears upon the 14th of July, and it is not until two days afterwards, namely, on the 16th, that they examined Lord Cholmondeley to the hand-writing—with what view, and for what purpose, I cannot even surmise; but with whatever view, and for whatever purpose, if these letters are at all to be alluded to in their Report, or the examinations accompanying it, surely I ought to have had the benefit of the other evidence, which disproved my connexion with them.—I have now, Sir, gone through all the matters contained in the examination, on which I think it, in any degree, necessary to trouble your Majesty with any observations. For as to the examination of Mrs. Townley the washerwoman, if it applies at all, it must have been intended to have afforded evidence of my pregnancy and miscarriage.—And whether the circumstances she speaks to was occasioned by my having been bled with leeches, or whether an actual miscarriage did take place in my family, and by some means linen belonging to me was procured and used upon the occasion, or to whatever other circumstance it is to be ascribed, after the manner in which the Commissioners have expressed their opinion, on the part of the case respecting my supposed pregnancy, and after the evidence on which they formed their opinion, I do not conceive myself called upon to say any thing upon it; or that any thing I could say could be more satisfactory than repeating the opinion of the Commissioners, as stated in their Report, viz. "That nothing had appeared to them which would warrant the belief that I was pregnant in that year (1802), or at any other period within

the compass of their Inquiries—that they would not be warranted in expressing any doubt respecting the alleged pregnancy of the Princess; as stated in the original declarations, a fact so fully contradicted, and by so many witnesses, to whom, if true, it must in various ways have been known, that we cannot think it entitled to the smallest credit."—There are, indeed, some other matters mentioned in the original declarations, which I might have found it necessary to observe upon; but as the Commissioners do not appear to have entered into any examination with respect to them, I content myself with thinking that they had found the means of satisfying themselves of the utter falsehood of those particulars, and, therefore, that they can require no contradiction or observation from me.—On the declaration, therefore, and the evidence, I have nothing further to remark. And, conscious of the length at which I have trespassed on your Majesty's patience, I will forbear to waste your time by any endeavour to recapitulate what I have said. Some few observations, however, before I conclude, I must hope to be permitted to subjoin.—In many of the observations which I have made, your Majesty will observe that I have noticed, what have appeared to me to be great omissions on the part of the Commissioners, in the manner of taking their examinations; in forbearing to put any questions to the witnesses, in the nature of a cross-examination of them; to confront them with each other; and to call other witnesses, whose testimony must either have confirmed or falsified, in important particulars, the examinations as they have taken them. It may perhaps occur, in consequence of such observations, that I am desirous that this Inquiry should be opened again; that the Commissioners should recommence their labours, and that they should proceed to supply the defects in their previous examinations, by a fuller execution of their duty.—I therefore think it necessary, most distinctly and emphatically to state, that I have no such meaning; and whatever may be the risk that I may incur of being charged with betraying a consciousness of guilt, by thus flying from an extension or repetition of this Inquiry, I must distinctly state, that so far from requesting the revival of it, I humbly request your Majesty would be graciously pleased to understand me as remonstrating and protesting against it, in the strongest and most solemn manner in my power.—I am yet to learn the legality of such a Commission to inquire, even in the case of High Treason, or any other crime known to the laws of the country. If it is lawful in the case of High Treason, supposed to be committed by me, surely it must be lawful also in the case of High Treason, supposed to be committed by other subjects of your Majesty.—That there is much objection to it, in reason and principle, my understanding assures me. That such Inquiries, carried on upon *ex parte* examination, and a Report of the result by persons of high authority, may, nay must, have a tendency to prejudice the character of the parties who are exposed to them, and thereby influence the further proceedings in their case;—that are calculated to keep back from notice, and in security, the person of a false accuser,

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and to leave the accused in the predicament of neither being able to look forward for protection to an acquittal of himself, nor for redress to the conviction of his accuser. That these and many other objections occur to such a mode of proceeding, in the case of a crime known to the laws of this country, appears to be quite obvious.—But if Commissioners acting under such a power, or your Majesty's Privy Council, or any regular Magistrates, when they have satisfied themselves of the falsehood of the principal charge, and the absence of all legal and substantive offence, are to be considered as empowered to proceed in the examination of the particulars of private life; to report upon the proprieties of domestic conduct, and the decorums of private behaviour, and to pronounce their opinion against the party, upon the evidence of dissatisfied servants, whose veracity they are to hold up as unimpeachable; and to do this without permitting the persons, whose conduct is inquired into, to suggest one word in explanation or contradiction of the matter with which they are charged: it would, I submit to your Majesty, prove such an attack upon the security and confidence of domestic life, such a means of recording, under the sanction of great names and high authority, the most malicious and foulest imputations, that no character could possibly be secure; and would do more to break in upon and undermine the happiness and comfort of life, than any proceeding which could be imagined.

—The public in general, perhaps, may feel not much interest in the establishment of such a precedent in my case. They may think it to be a course of proceeding, scarcely applicable to any private subject: yet, if once such a court of honour, of decency, and of manners, was established, many subjects might occur, to which it might be thought advisable to extend its jurisdiction, beyond the instance of a Princess of Wales. But should it be intended to be confined to me, your Majesty, I trust, will not be surprised to find that it does not reconcile me the better to it, should I learn myself to be the single instance in your kingdom, who is exposed to the scrutiny of so severe and formidable a tribunal. So far, therefore, from giving that sanction or consent to any fresh Inquiry, upon similar principles, which I should seem to do, by requiring the renewal of these examinations, I must protest against it; protest against the nature of the proceeding, because its result cannot be fair. I must protest, as long at least as it remains doubtful, against the legality of what has already passed, as well as the legality of its repetition. If the course be legal, I must submit to the laws, however severe they may be; but I trust new law is not to be found out, and applied to my case. If I am guilty of crime, I know I am amenable; I am most contented to continue so, to the impartial laws of your Majesty's kingdom; and I fear no charge brought against me, in open day, under the public eye, before the known tribunals of the country, administering justice under those impartial and enlightened laws. But secret tribunals, created for the first time for me, to form and pronounce opinions upon my conduct without hearing me; to record, in the evidence of the witnesses which they report, imputations against my character upon *ex parte* examinations—till I am better reconciled to the justice of their proceedings, I cannot fail to fear.—And till I am better informed as to their legality, I cannot fail in duty

to my dearest interests, most solemnly to remonstrate and to protest against them.—If such tribunals as these are called into action against me, by the false charges of friends turned enemies, of servants turned traitors, and acting as spies, by the foul conspiracy of such social and domestic treason, I can look to no security to my honour in the most spotless and most cautious innocence.

By the contradiction and denial which in this case I have been enabled to procure, of the most important facts which have been sworn against me by Mr. Cole and Mr. Bidgood;—by the observations and the reasonings which I have addressed to your Majesty, I am confident, that to those whose sense of justice will lead them to wade through this long detail, I shall have removed the impressions which have been raised against me.—But how am I to ensure a patient attention to all this statement? How many will hear that the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, the First Lord of the Treasury, and one of your Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, have reported against me, upon evidence which they have declared to be unbiassed and unquestionable; who will never have the opportunity, or if they had the opportunity, might not have the inclination, to correct the error of that Report, by the examination of my statement.—I feel, therefore, that by this proceeding, my character has received essential injury. For a Princess of Wales to have been placed in a situation, in which it was essential to her honour to request one gentleman to swear, that he was not locked up at midnight in a room with her alone: and another, that he did not give her a lascivious salute, and never slept in her house, is to have been actually degraded and disgraced.—I have been, Sire, placed in this situation, I have been cruelly, your Majesty will permit me to say so, cruelly degraded into the necessity of making such requests. A necessity which I never could have been exposed to, even under this Inquiry, if more attention had been given to the examination of these malicious charges, and of the evidence on which they rest.—Much solicitude is felt, and justly so, as connected with this Inquiry, for the honour of your Majesty's illustrious Family. But surely a true regard to that honour should have restrained those who really felt for it, from casting such severe reflections on the character and virtue of the Princess of Wales.—If, indeed, after the most diligent and anxious Inquiry, penetrating into every circumstance connected with the charge, searching every source from which information could be derived, and scrutinizing with all that acuteness into the credit and character of the witnesses, which great experience, talent, and intelligence could bring to such a subject; and above all, if, after giving me some opportunity of being heard, the force of truth had, at length, compelled any persons to form, as reluctantly, and as unwillingly as they would, against their own daughters, the opinion that has been pronounced; no regard, unquestionably, to my honour and character, nor to that of your Majesty's Family, as, in some degree, involved in mine, could have justified the suppression of that opinion, if legally called for, in the course of official and public duty. Whether such caution and reluctance are really manifest in these proceedings, I must leave to less partial judgments than my own to determine.—In the full examination of these



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proceedings, which justice to my own character has required of me, I have been compelled to make many observations, which, I fear, may prove offensive to persons in high power.—Your Majesty will easily believe, when I solemnly assure you, that I have been deeply sorry to yield to the necessity of so doing. This proceeding manifests that I have enemies enough; I could not wish unnecessarily to increase their number, or their weight. I trust, however, I have done it, I know it has been my purpose to do it, in a manner as little offensive as the justice due to myself would allow of; but I have felt that I have been deeply injured; that I have had much to complain of; and that my silence now would not be taken for forbearance, but would be ascribed to me as a confession of guilt. The Report itself announced to me, that these things, which had been spoken to by the witnesses, “great improprieties and indecencies of conduct,” necessarily occasioning most unfavourable interpretations, and deserving the most serious consideration, “must be credited till decidedly contradicted.” The most satisfactory disproof of these circumstances (as the contradiction of the accused is always received with caution and distrust) rested in the proof of the foul malice and falsehood of my accusers and their witnesses. The Report announced to your Majesty that those witnesses, whom I felt to be foul confederates in a base conspiracy against me, were not to be suspected of unfavourable bias, and their veracity, in the judgment of the Commissioners, not to be questioned.—Under these circumstances, Sire, what could I do? Could I forbear, in justice to myself, to announce to your Majesty the existence of a conspiracy against my honour, and my station in this country at least, if not against my life? Could I forbear to point out to your Majesty, how long this intended mischief had been meditated against me? Could I forbear to point out my doubts, at least, of the legality of the Commission under which the proceeding had been had? or to point out the errors and inaccuracies, into which the great and able men who were named in this commission, under the hurry and pressure of their great official occupations, had fallen, in the execution of this duty? Could I forbear to state, and to urge, the great injustice and injury that had been done to my character and my honour, by opinions pronounced against me without hearing me? And if, in the execution of this great task, so essential to my honour, I have let drop any expressions which a colder and more cautious prudence would have checked, I appeal to your Majesty’s warm heart and generous feelings, to suggest my excuse and to afford my pardon.—What I have said I have said under the pressure of much misfortune, under the provocation of great and accumulated injustice. Oh! Sire, to be unfortunate, and scarce to feel at liberty to lament; to be cruelly used, and to feel it almost an offence and a duty to be silent is a hard lot; but we had, in some degree, injured me to it: but to find my misfortunes and my injuries imputed to me as faults; to be called to account upon a charge made against me by Lady Douglas, who was thought at first worthy of credit, although she had pledged her veracity to the fact, of my having admitted that I was myself the aggressor in every thing of which I had to complain, has subdued all power of patient bearing, and when I was called upon by the Commissioners, either

to admit, by my silence, the guilt which they imputed to me, or to enter into my defence, in contradiction to it—no longer at liberty to remain silent, I, perhaps, have not known how, with exact propriety, to limit my expressions.—In happier days of my life, before my spirit had been yet at all lowered by my misfortunes, I should have been disposed to have met such a charge with the contempt which, I trust, by this time, your Majesty thinks due to it; I should have been disposed to have defied my enemies to the utmost, and to have scorned to answer to any thing but a legal charge, before a competent tribunal: but in my present misfortunes, such force of mind is gone. I ought, perhaps, so far to be thankful to them for their wholesome lessons of humility. I have, therefore, entered into this long detail, to endeavour to remove, at the first possible opportunity, any unfavourable impressions; to rescue myself from the dangers which the continuance of these suspicions might occasion, and to preserve to me your Majesty’s good opinion, in whose kindness, hitherto, I have found infinite consolation, and to whose justice, under all circumstances, I can confidently appeal.—Under the impression of these sentiments I throw myself at your Majesty’s feet. I know, that whatever sentiments of resentment; whatever wish for redress, by the punishment of my false accusers, I ought to feel, your Majesty, as the Father of a Stranger, smarting under false accusation, as the Head of your illustrious House dishonoured in me, and as the great Guardian of the Laws of your Kingdom, thus foully attempted to have been applied to the purposes of injustice, will not fail to feel for me. At all events, I trust your Majesty will restore me to the blessing of your Gracious Presence, and confirm to me, by your own Gracious Words, your satisfactory conviction of my innocence.—I am, Sire, with every sentiment of gratitude and loyalty, your Majesty’s most affectionate and dutiful Daughter-in-law, subject and servant,

C. P.

*Montague House, 2d October, 1806.*

*The Deposition of Thomas Manby, Esquire, a Captain in the Royal Navy.*

Having had read to me the following passage, from a Copy of the Deposition of Robert Bidgood, sworn the 6th of June last, before Lords Spencer and Grenville, viz.—“I was waiting one day “in the anti-room; Captain Manby had his hat “in his hand, and appeared to be going away; “he was a long time with the Princess, and, as “I stood on the steps, waiting, I looked into “the room in which they were, and, in the re- “flection on the looking-glass, I saw them sa- “lute each other—I mean, that they kissed “each other’s lips. Captain Manby then went “away, I then observed the Princess have her “handkerchief in her hands, and wipe her eyes, “as if she was crying, and went into the draw- “ing-room.”—I do solemnly, and upon my oath, declare, that the said passage is a vile and wicked invention; that it is wholly and absolutely false; that it is impossible he ever could have seen, in the reflection of any glass, any such thing, as I never, upon any occasion, or in any situation, ever had the presumption to salute Her Royal Highness in any such manner, or to take any such liberty, or offer any such insult to her person. And having had read to me another passage, from the same Copy of the same Deposition, in which the said Robert Bid-



good says—"I suspected that Captain Manby "slept frequently in the house; it was a subject "of conversation in the house. Hints were "given by the servants; and I believe that "others suspected it as well as myself."—I solemnly swear, that such suspicion is wholly unfounded, and that I never did, at Montague House, Southend, Ramsgate, East Cliff, or any where else, ever sleep in any house occupied by, or belonging to, Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and that there never did any thing pass between Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales and myself, that I should be in any degree unwilling that all the world should have seen.

(Signed) THO. MANBY.

Sworn at the Public Office, Hatton Garden, London, the 22d day of September, 1806, before me,

(Signed) THOMAS LEACH.

*The Deposition of Thomas Lawrence, of Greek-street, Soho, in the County of Middlesex, Portrait Painter.*

Having had read to me the following Extract from a Copy of a Deposition of William Cole, purporting to have been sworn before Lords Spencer and Grenville the 10th day of June, 1806, viz.—"Mr. Lawrence, the painter, "used to go to Montague House about the latter "end of 1801, when he was painting the Princess, and he has slept in the house two or "three nights together. I have often seen him "alone with the Princess at eleven or twelve "o'clock at night; he has been there as late as "one or two o'clock in the morning. One night "I saw him with the Princess in the blue room, "after the ladies had retired; sometime afterwards, when I supposed he was gone to his "bed-room, I went to see that all was safe, and "found the blue room door locked, and heard "a whispering in it, and then went away."—I do solemnly, and upon my oath, depose, that having received the commands of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales to paint Her Royal Highness's portrait, and that of the Princess Charlotte; I attended for that purpose at Montague House, Blackheath, several times about the beginning of the year 1801, and having been informed that Sir William Beechey, upon a similar occasion, had slept in the house, for the greater convenience of executing his painting; and it having been intimated to me, that I might probably be allowed the same advantage, I signified my wish to avail myself of it; and accordingly I did sleep at Montague House several nights:—that frequently, when employed upon this painting, and occasionally, between the close of a day's sitting and the time of Her Royal Highness dressing for dinner, I have been alone in Her Royal Highness's presence; I have likewise been graciously admitted to Her Royal Highness's presence in the evenings, and remained there till twelve, one, and two o'clock; but, I do solemnly swear, I was never alone in the presence of Her Royal Highness in an evening, to the best of my recollection and belief, except in one single instance, and that for a short time, when I remained with Her Royal Highness in the blue-room, or drawing-room, as I remember, to answer some question which had been put to me, at the moment I was about to retire, together with the ladies in waiting, who had been previously present as well as myself; and, though I cannot recollect the parti-

culars of the conversation which then took place, I do solemnly swear, that nothing passed between Her Royal Highness and myself, which I could have had the least objection for all the world to have seen and heard. And I do further, upon my oath, solemnly declare, that I never was alone in the presence of Her Royal Highness in any other place, or in any other way, than as above described; and that neither, upon the occasion last mentioned, nor upon any other, was I ever in the presence of Her Royal Highness, in any room whatever, with the door locked, bolted, or fastened, otherwise than in the common and usual manner, which leaves it in the power of any person on the outside of the door to open it.

(Signed) THOMAS LAWRENCE.

Sworn at the Public Office, Hatton Garden, this 24th day of September, 1806, before me,

(Signed) THOMAS LEACH.

*The Deposition of Thomas Edmeades, of Greenwich, in the County of Kent, Surgeon.*

On Tuesday, May 20th, 1806, I waited upon Earl Moira, by his appointment, who, having introduced me to Mr. Connant, a Magistrate for Westminster, proceeded to mention a charge preferred against me, by one of the female servants of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, of my having said, that Her Royal Highness had been pregnant. His Lordship then asked me, if I had not bled Her Royal Highness; and whether, at that time, I did not mention to a servant, that I thought Her Royal Highness in the family way; and whether I did not also ask, at the same time, if the Prince had been down to Montague House. I answered, that it had never entered my mind that Her Royal Highness was in such a situation, and that, therefore, certainly, I never made the remark to any one; nor had I asked whether His Royal Highness had visited the house:—I said, that, at that time, a report, of the nature alluded to, was prevalent; but that I treated it as the infamous lie of the day. His Lordship adverted to the circumstance of Her Royal Highness's having taken a child into her house; and observed, how dreadful mistakes about succession to the throne were, and what confusion might be caused by any claim of this child: I observed, that I was aware of it; but repeated the assertion, that I had never *thought* of such a thing as was suggested, and therefore considered it impossible, in a manner, that I could have given it utterance. I observed, that I believed, in the first instance, Mr. Stikeman, the page, had mentioned this child to Her Royal Highness, and that it came from Deptford, where I went, when Her Royal Highness first took it, to see if any illness prevailed in the family. Mr. Connant observed, that he believed it was not an unusual thing for a medical man, when he imagined that a Lady was pregnant, to mention his suspicion to some confidential domestic in the family:—I admitted the *bare* possibility, if such had been my opinion; but remarked, that the *if* must have been removed, before I could have committed myself in so absurd a manner. —Lord Moira, in a very significant manner, with his hands behind him, his head over one shoulder, his eyes directed towards me, with a sort of smile, observed, "that he could not help thinking that there must be *something* in the servant's deposition;" as if he did not give per-



fect credit to what I had said. He observed, that the matter was then confined to the knowledge of a few; and that he had hoped, if there had been any foundation for the affidavit, I might have acknowledged it, that the affair might have been hushed. With respect to the minor question, I observed, that it was not probable that I should condescend to ask any such question, as that imputed to me, of a menial servant; and that I was not in the habit of conferring confidentially with servants. Mr. Connant cautioned me to be on my guard; as, that if it appeared, on further investigation, I had made such inquiry, it might be very unpleasant to me, should it come under the consideration of the Privy Council. I said, that I considered the report as a malicious one; and was ready to make oath, before any Magistrate, that I had not, at any time, asserted, or even thought, that Her Royal Highness had ever been in a state of pregnancy since I had had the honour of attending the household. Mr. Connant asked me, whether, *whilst* I was bleeding Her Royal Highness or *after* I had performed the operation, I did not make some comment on the situation of Her Royal Highness, from the state of the blood; and whether I recommended the operation; I answered in the negative to both questions. I said, that Her Royal Highness had sent for me to bleed her, and that I did not then recollect on what account. I said, that I had bled Her Royal Highness twice; but did not remember the dates. I asked Lord Moira, whether he intended to proceed in the business, or whether I might consider it as at rest, that I might have an opportunity, if I thought necessary, of consulting my friends relative to the mode of conduct I ought to adopt; he said, that if the subject was moved any further, I should be apprized of it; and that, at present, it was in the hands of a few. I left them, and, in about an hour, on further consideration, wrote the note, of which the following is a copy, to which I never received any reply:—"Mr. Edmeades presents his respectful compliments to Lord Moira, and, on mature deliberation, after leaving his Lordship, upon the conversation which passed at Lord Moira's this morning, he feels it necessary to advise with some friend, on the propriety of making the particulars of that conversation known to Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales; as Mr. Edmeades would be very sorry that Her Royal Highness should consider him capable of such infamous conduct as that imputed to him on the deposition of a servant, by Lord Moira, this morning."

"London, May 20, 1806."

I have been enabled to state the substance of my interview with Lord Moira and Mr. Connant with the more particularity, as I made memorandums of it, within a day or two afterwards. And I do further depose, that the Papers hereto annexed, marked A. and B. are in the hand-writing of Samuel Gillam Mills, of Greenwich aforesaid, my Partner; and that he is at present, as I verily believe, upon his road from Wales, through Gloucester, to Bath.

(Signed) THOS. EDMEADES,

Sworn at the Public Office, Hatton Garden, this 26th day of September, 1806.

(Signed) THOMAS LEACH,

(A.)

*Memorandums of the Heads of Conversation between Lord Moira, Mr. Lowten, and himself.*

May 14, 1806.

May 13, 1806. I received a letter from Lord Moira, of which the following is an exact copy:

*St. James's-place, May 13, 1806.*

Sir,—A particular circumstance makes me desire to have the pleasure of seeing you, and, indeed, renders it indispensable that you should take the trouble of calling on me. As the trial in Westminster Hall occupies the latter hours of the day, I must beg you to be with me as early as nine o'clock to-morrow morning; in the mean time, it will be better that you should not apprize any one of my having requested you to converse with me.—I have the honour, Sir, to be your obedient servant,

(Signed) MOIRA.

To Mr. Mills.

This is the Paper A. referred to by the Affidavit of Thomas Edmeades, sworn before me this 26th September, 1806.

THOMAS LEACH.

(B.)

In consequence of the above letter, I waited on his Lordship, exactly at nine o'clock. In less than five minutes I was admitted into his room, and by him received very politely. He began the conversation by stating, he wished to converse with me on a very delicate subject; that I might rely on his honour, that what passed was to be in perfect confidence; it was his duty to his Prince, as his Counsellor, to inquire into the subject, which he had known for some time; and the inquiry was due also to my character. He then stated, that a deposition had been made by a domestic of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, deposing, as a declaration made by me, that Her Royal Highness was pregnant, and that I made inquiries when interviews might have taken place with the Prince. I answered, that I never had declared the Princess to be with child, nor ever made the inquiries stated; that the declaration was an infamous falsehood. This being expressed with some warmth, his Lordship observed that I might have made the inquiries very innocently, conceiving that Her Royal Highness could not be in that situation but by the Prince. I repeated my assertion of the falsehood of the declaration, adding, that though the conversation was intended to be confidential, I felt my character strongly attacked by the declaration, therefore it was necessary that the declaration should be investigated; I had no doubt but the character I had so many years maintained, would make my assertion believed before the deposition of a domestic. I then requested to know, what date the declaration bore? His Lordship said, he did not remember; but he had desired the Solicitor to meet me, who would shew it me. I then observed, that I should in confidence communicate to his Lordship why I was desirous to know the date; I then stated to his Lordship, that soon after Her Royal Highness came to Blackheath, I attended her in an illness, with Sir Francis Millman, in which I bled her twice. Soon after her recovery, she thought proper to form a regular medical appointment, and appointed myself and Mr. Edmeades to be Surgeons and Apothecaries to Her Royal Highness. On receiving my warrant for such appointment, I declined accepting the honour of being appointed Apothecary, being inconsistent with



my character, being educated as Surgeon, and having had an honorary degree of Physic conferred on me. Her Royal Highness condescended to appoint me her Surgeon only. His Lordship rang to know if Mr. Lowten was come; he was in the next room. His Lordship left me for a few minutes, returned, and introduced me to Mr. Lowten with much politeness, as Dr. Mills; repeating the assurance of what passed being confidential. I asked Mr. Lowten the date of the declaration, that had been asserted to be made by me? He said, in the year 1802. I then, with permission of his Lordship, gave the history of my appointment, adding, since then I had never seen the Princess as a patient. Once she sent for me to bleed her; I was from home; Mr. Edmeades went; nor had I visited any one in the house, except one Mary, and that was in a very bad case of surgery; I was not sure whether it was before or after my appointment. Mr. Lowten asked me the date of it; I told him I did not recollect. He observed, from the warmth of my expressing my contradiction to the deposition, that I saw it in a wrong light; that I might suppose, and very innocently, Her Royal Highness to be pregnant, and then the inquiries were as innocently made. I answered, that the idea of pregnancy never entered my head; that I never attended Her Royal Highness in any sexual complaint; whether she ever had any I never knew. Mr. Lowten said, I might think so, from her increase of size; I answered, no; I never did think her pregnant, therefore never could say it, and that the deposition was an infamous falsehood. His Lordship then observed, that he perceived there must be a mistake, and that Mr. Edmeades was the person meant, whom he wished to see; I said, he was then at Oxford, and did not return before Saturday; his Lordship asked, if he came through London; I said, I could not tell.—Finding nothing now arising from conversation, I asked to retire; his Lordship attended me out of the room with great politeness.—When I came home, I sent his Lordship a letter, with the date of my warrant, April 10, 1801; he answered my letter, with thanks for my immediate attention, and wished to see Mr. Edmeades on Sunday morning. This letter came on the Saturday; early on the Sunday I sent Timothy, to let his Lordship know Mr. Edmeades would not return till Monday; on Tuesday I promised he should attend, which he did.—The preceding Memorandum is an exact copy of what I made the day after I had seen Lord Moira.

(Signed) SAM. GILLAM MILLS.

*Croome Hill, Greenwich, Aug. 20, 1806.*  
This is the paper marked B, referred to by the Affidavit of Thomas Edmeades, sworn before me this 26th Sept. 1806.

(Signed) THOMAS LEACH.

*The Deposition of Jonathan Partridge, Porter to Lord Eardley, at Belvidere.*

I remember being informed by Mr. Kenny, Lord Eardley's Steward, now dead, that I was wanted by Lord Moira, in town; accordingly I went with Mr. Kenny to Lord Moira's, in St. James's-place, on the King's Birth Day of 1804. His Lordship asked me, if I remembered the Princess coming to Belvidere some time before? I said, yes, and told him that there were two or three ladies, I think three, with Her Royal Highness, and a gentleman with them, who came on ~~Belvidere~~; that they looked at the pictures in ~~Belvidere~~; and that Her

Royal Highness's servants waited upon them, as I was in a dishabille. His Lordship asked me, whether they went up stairs? and I told them that they did not. He asked me, how long they staid? and I said, as far as I recollected, they did not stay above an hour, or an hour and quarter; that they waited some little time for the carriage, which had gone to the public-house, and, till it came, they walked up and down altogether in the portico before the house. His Lordship, in the course of what he said to me, said, it was a subject of importance, and might be of consequence. His Lordship, finding that I had nothing more to say, told me I might go.—Sometime afterwards his Lordship sent for me again, and asked me, if I was sure of what I said being all that I could say respecting the Princess? I said, it was; and that I was ready to take my oath of it, if his Lordship thought proper. He said, it was very satisfactory; said, I might go, and he should not want me any more.

(Signed) JONATHAN PARTRIDGE.

Sworn at the County Court of Middlesex, in Fullwood's Rents, the 25th day of September, 1806, before me,

(Signed) THOMAS LEACH.

*The Deposition of Philip Krackeler, one of the Footmen of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and Robert Eaglestone, Park-keeper to Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.*

These Deponents say, that on or about the 28th day of June last, as they were walking together across Greenwich Park, they saw Robert Bidgood, one of the Pages of Her Royal Highness, walking in a direction as if he were going from the town of Greenwich, towards the house of Sir John Douglas, and which is a different road from that which leads to Montague House, and they at the same time perceived Lady Douglas walking in a direction to meet him. And this Deponent, Philip Krackeler, then desired the other Deponent to take notice, whether Lady Douglas and Mr. Bidgood would speak to each other; and both of these Deponents observed, that when Lady Douglas and Mr. Bidgood met, they stopped, and conversed together for the space of about two or three minutes, whilst in view of these Deponents; but how much longer their conversation lasted these Deponents cannot say, as they, these Deponents, proceeded on their road which took them out of sight of Lady Douglas and Mr. Bidgood.

(Signed) PHILIP KRACKELER.  
ROBT. EAGLESTONE.

Sworn at the Public Office, Hatton Garden, this 27th day of September, 1806, before me,

(Signed) THOMAS LEECH.

*To the King.*

Sire,—I trust your Majesty, who knows my constant affection, loyalty, and duty, and the sure confidence with which I readily repose my honour, my character, my happiness in your Majesty's hands, will not think me guilty of any disrespectful or undutious impatience, when I thus again address myself to your Royal grace and justice.—It is, Sire, nine weeks to-day, since my counsel presented to the Lord High Chancellor my letter to your Majesty, containing my observations, in vindication of my honour and innocence, upon the Report presented to your Majesty by the Commissioners, who had been appointed to examine into my conduct.





The Lord Chancellor informed my Council, that the letter should be conveyed to your Majesty on that very day; and further, was pleased, in about a week or ten days afterwards, to communicate to my Solicitor, that your Majesty had read my letter, and that it had been transmitted to his Lordship, with directions that it should be copied for the Commissioners, and that when such copy had been taken, the original should be returned to your Majesty.—Your Majesty's own gracious and royal mind will easily conceive what must have been my state of anxiety and suspense, whilst I have been fondly indulging in the hope, that every day, as it passed, would bring me the happy tidings, that your Majesty was satisfied of my innocence, and convinced of the unfounded malice of my enemies, in every part of their charge. Nine long weeks of daily expectation and suspense have now elapsed, and they have brought me nothing but disappointment. I have remained in total ignorance of what has been done, what is doing, or what is intended upon this subject. Your Majesty's goodness will, therefore, pardon me, if in the step which I now take I act upon a mistaken conjecture with respect to the fact. But from the Lord Chancellor's communication to my Solicitor, and from the time which has elapsed, I am led to conclude, that your Majesty had directed the copy of my letter to be laid before the Commissioners, requiring their advice upon the subject; and, possibly, their official occupations, and their other duties to the State, may not have, as yet, allowed them the opportunity of attending to it. But your Majesty will permit me to observe, that however excusable this delay may be on their parts, yet it operates most injuriously upon me; my feelings are severely tortured by the suspense, while my character is sinking in the opinion of the public.—It is known, that a Report, though acquitting me of crime, yet imputing matters highly disreputable to my honour, has been made to your Majesty; that that Report has been communicated to me; that I have endeavoured to answer it; and that I still remain, at the end of nine weeks from the delivery of my answer, unacquainted with the judgment which is formed upon it. May I be permitted to observe upon the extreme prejudice which this delay, however to be accounted for by the numerous important occupations of the Commissioners, produces to my honour? The world, in total ignorance of the real state of the facts, begin to infer my guilt from it. I feel myself already sinking in the estimation of your Majesty's subjects, as well as of what remains to me of my own family, into (a state intolerable to a mind conscious of its purity and innocence) a state in which my honour appears at last equivocal, and my virtue is suspected. From this state I humbly entreat your Majesty to perceive, that I can have no hope of being restored, until either your Majesty's favourable opinion shall be graciously notified to the world, by receiving me again into the Royal Presence, or until the full disclosure of the facts shall expose the malice of my accusers, and do away every possible ground for unfavourable inference and conjecture.—The various calamities with which it has pleased God of late to afflict me, I have endeavoured to bear, and trust I have borne with humble resignation to the Divine will. But the effect of this infamous charge, and the delay which has suspended its final termination, by depriving me of the consolation which I should have received

from your Majesty's presence and kindness, have given a heavy addition to them all; and, surely, my bitterest enemies could hardly wish that they should be increased. But on this topic, as possibly not much affecting the justice, though it does the hardship, of my case, I forbear to dwell.—Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to recollect, that an occasion of assembling the Royal Family and your subjects, in dutiful and happy commemoration of Her Majesty's birth-day, is now near at hand. If the increased occupations which the approach of Parliament may occasion, or any other cause, should prevent the Commissioners from enabling your Majesty to communicate your pleasure to me before that time, the world will infallibly conclude (in their present state of ignorance), that my answer must have proved unsatisfactory, and that the infamous charges have been thought but too true.—These considerations, Sire, will, I trust, in your Majesty's gracious opinion, rescue this address from all imputation of impatience. For, your Majesty's sense of honourable feeling will naturally suggest, how utterly impossible it is that I, conscious of my own innocence, and believing that the malice of my enemies has been completely detected, can, without abandoning all regard to my interests, my happiness, and my honour, possibly be contented to perceive the approach of such utter ruin to my character, and yet wait, with patience and in silence, till it overwhelms me. I therefore take this liberty of throwing myself again at your Majesty's feet, and entreating and imploring of your Majesty's goodness and justice, in pity for my miseries, which this delay so severely aggravates, and in justice to my innocence and character, to urge the Commissioners to an early communication of their advice.—To save your Majesty and the Commissioners all unnecessary trouble, as well as to obviate all probability of further delay, I have directed a duplicate of this letter to be prepared, and have sent one copy of it through the Lord Chancellor, and another through Colonel Taylor to your Majesty.—I am, Sire, with every sentiment of gratitude and loyalty, your Majesty's most affectionate and dutiful Daughter-in-law, servant and subject, C. P.

*Montague House, Dec. 8th, 1806.*

The Lord Chancellor has the honour to present his most humble duty to the Princess of Wales, and to transmit to Her Royal Highness the accompanying Message from the King, which Her Royal Highness will observe he has His Majesty's commands to communicate to Her Royal Highness.—The Lord Chancellor would have done himself the honour to have waited personally upon Her Royal Highness, and have delivered it himself; but he considered the sending it sealed, as more respectful and acceptable to Her Royal Highness. The Lord Chancellor received the original paper from the King yesterday, and made the copy now sent in his own hand.

January 28th, 1807.

*To Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.*

The King having referred to his confidential Servants the proceedings and papers relative to the written declarations which had been before His Majesty, respecting the conduct of the Princess of Wales, has been apprized by them, that after the fullest consideration of the examinations taken on that subject, and of the observations and affidavits brought forward by the



Princess of Wales's legal advisers, they agree in the opinions submitted to His Majesty in the original Report of the four Lords, by whom His Majesty directed that the matter should in the first instance be inquired into; and that, in the present stage of the business, upon a mature and deliberate view of this most important subject in all its parts and bearings, it is their opinion, that the facts of this case do not warrant their advising that any further steps should be taken in the business by His Majesty's Government, or any other proceedings instituted upon it, except such only as His Majesty's Law Servants may, on reference to them, think fit to recommend for the prosecution of Lady Douglas, on those parts of her depositions which may appear to them to be justly liable thereto.—In this situation, His Majesty is advised, that it is no longer necessary for him to decline receiving the Princess into his Royal Presence.—The King sees, with great satisfaction, the agreement of his confidential Servants, in the decided opinion expressed by the four Lords upon the falsehood of the accusations of pregnancy and delivery, brought forward against the Princess by Lady Douglas.—On the other matters produced in the course of the Inquiry, the King is advised that none of the facts or allegations stated in preliminary examinations, carried on in the absence of the parties interested, can be considered as legally, or conclusively, established. But in those examinations, and even in the answer drawn in the name of the Princess by her legal advisers, there have appeared circumstances of conduct on the part of the Princess, which his Majesty never could regard but with serious concern. The elevated rank which the Princess holds in this country, and the relation in which she stands to His Majesty and the Royal Family, must always deeply involve both the interests of the state and the personal feelings of His Majesty, in the propriety and correctness of her conduct. And His Majesty cannot, therefore, forbear to express, in the conclusion of the business, his desire and expectation that such a conduct may in future be observed by the Princess, as may fully justify those marks of paternal regard and affection which the King always wishes to shew to every part of His Royal Family.

His Majesty has directed that this message should be transmitted to the Princess of Wales by his Lord Chancellor, and that copies of the proceedings, which had taken place on the subject, should also be communicated to his dearly beloved Son, the Prince of Wales.

*Montague-House, Jan. 29, 1807.*

SIRE,—I hasten to acknowledge the receipt of the paper, which, by your Majesty's direction, was yesterday transmitted to me, by the Lord Chancellor, and to express the unfeigned happiness which I have derived from one part of it. I mean that, which informs me that your Majesty's confidential servants have, at length, thought proper to communicate to your Majesty their advice, "that it is no longer necessary for your Majesty to decline receiving me into your Royal presence." And I, therefore, humbly hope that your Majesty will be graciously pleased to receive, with favour, the communication of my intention to avail myself, with your Majesty's permission, of that advice, for the purpose of waiting upon your Majesty on Monday next, if that day should not be inconvenient; when I hope again to have the happiness of

throwing myself, in filial duty and affection, at your Majesty's feet.—Your Majesty will easily conceive that I reluctantly name so distant a day as Monday, but I do not feel myself sufficiently recovered from the measles, to venture upon so long a drive at an earlier day. Feeling, however, very anxious to receive again, as soon as possible, that blessing of which I have been so long deprived, if that day should happen to be, in any degree, inconvenient, I humbly entreat and implore your Majesty's most gracious and paternal goodness to name some other day, as early as possible, for that purpose.—I am, &c.

(Signed)

C. P.

*To the King.*

*Windsor Castle, Jan. 29, 1807.*

The King has this moment received the Princess of Wales's letter, in which she intimates her intention of coming to Windsor on Monday next; and his Majesty, wishing not to put the Princess to the inconvenience of coming to this place so immediately after her illness, hastens to acquaint her, that he shall prefer to receive her in London, upon a day subsequent to the ensuing week, which will also better suit his Majesty, and of which he will not fail to apprise the Princess.

(Signed)

GEORGE. R.

*To the Princess of Wales.*

*Windsor Castle, Feb. 10, 1807.*

As the Princess of Wales may have been led to expect, from the King's letter to her, that he would fix an early day for seeing her, his Majesty thinks it right to acquaint her, that the Prince of Wales, upon receiving the several documents, which the King directed his Cabinet to transmit to him, made a formal communication to him of his intention to put them into the hands of his lawyers; accompanied by a request, that his Majesty would suspend any further steps in the business, until the Prince of Wales should be enabled to submit to him the statement which he proposed to make. The King, therefore, considers it incumbent upon him to defer naming a day to the Princess of Wales, until the further result of the Prince's intention shall have been made known to him.

(Signed)

GEORGE. R.

*To the Princess of Wales.*

[Here should have come in the Princess's Letter to the King, of the 12th of Feb. 1807; but it will be found inserted in the foregoing Number of the Register, at p. 409.]

SIRE,—By my short letter to your Majesty of the 12th instant, in answer to your Majesty's communication of the 10th, I notified my intention of representing to your Majesty the various grounds on which I felt the hardship of my case; and a review of which, I confidently hoped, would dispose your Majesty to recal your determination to adjourn, to an indefinite period, my reception into your royal presence; a determination which, in addition to all the other pain which it brought along with it, affected me with the disappointment of hopes, which I had fondly cherished with the most perfect confidence, because they rested on your Majesty's gracious assurance.—Independently, however, of that communication from your Majesty, I should have felt myself bound to have troubled your Majesty with much of the contents of the present letter,



—Upon the receipt of the paper, which, by your Majesty's commands, was transmitted to me by the Lord Chancellor, on the 28th of last month, and which communicated to me the joyful intelligence, that your Majesty was "advised, that it was no longer necessary for you to decline receiving me into your royal presence," I conceived myself necessarily called upon to send an immediate answer to so much of it as respected that intelligence. I could not wait the time which it would have required, to state those observations which it was impossible for me to refrain from making, at some period, upon the other important particulars which that paper contained. Accordingly, I answered it immediately; and, as your Majesty's gracious and instant reply of last Thursday fortnight, announced to me your pleasure, that I should be received by your Majesty on a day subsequent to the then ensuing week, I was led most confidently to assure myself, that the last week would not have passed, without my having received that satisfaction. I, therefore, determined to wait in patience, without further intrusion upon your Majesty, till I might have the opportunity of guarding myself from the possibility of being misunderstood, by personally explaining to your Majesty, that whatever observations I had to make upon the paper so communicated to me on the 28th ultimo, and whatever complaints respecting the delay, and the many cruel circumstances which had attended the whole of the proceedings against me, and the unsatisfactory state in which they were at length left by that last communication, they were observations and complaints which affected those only, under whose advice your Majesty had acted, and were not, in any degree, intended to intimate even the most distant insinuation against your Majesty's justice or kindness.—That paper established the opinion which I certainly had ever confidently entertained, but the justness of which I had not before any document to establish, that your Majesty had, from the first, deemed this proceeding a high and important matter of state, in the consideration of which your Majesty had not felt yourself at liberty to trust to your own generous feelings, and to your own royal and gracious judgment. I never did believe that the cruel state of anxiety in which I had been kept, ever since the delivery of my Answer (for at least sixteen weeks), could be at all attributable to your Majesty; it was most unlike every thing which I had ever experienced from your Majesty's condescension, feeling, and justice; and I found from that paper, that it was to your confidential servants I was to ascribe the length of banishment from your presence, which they, at last, advised your Majesty it was no longer necessary should be continued. I perceive, therefore, what I always believed, that it was to them, and to them only, that I owed the protracted continuance of my sufferings and of my disgrace; and that your Majesty, considering the whole of this proceeding to have been instituted and conducted under the grave responsibility of your Majesty's servants, had not thought proper to take any step, or express any opinion, upon any part of it, but such as was recommended by their advice. Influenced by these sentiments, and anxious to have the opportunity of conveying them, with the overflowings of a grateful heart, to your Majesty, what were my sensations of surprise, mortification, and disappointment, on the receipt of your Majesty's

letter of the 10th instant, your Majesty may conceive, though I am utterly unable to express.

—That Letter announces to me that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, upon receiving the several documents which your Majesty directed your Cabinet to transmit to him, made a personal communication to your Majesty of his intention to put them into the hands of his Lawyers, accompanied by a request, that your Majesty would suspend any further steps in the business, until the Prince of Wales should be enabled to submit to your Majesty the statement which he proposed to make; and it also announces to me that your Majesty therefore considered it incumbent on you to defer naming a day to me, until the further result of the Prince of Wales's intention should have been made known to your Majesty.—This determination of your Majesty, on this request, made by His Royal Highness, I humbly trust your Majesty will permit me to entreat you, in your most gracious justice, to re-consider. Your Majesty, I am convinced, must have been surprised at the time, and prevailed upon by the importunity of the Prince of Wales, to think this determination necessary, or your Majesty's generosity and justice would never have adopted it. And if I can satisfy your Majesty of the unparalleled injustice and cruelty of this interposition of the Prince of Wales, at such a time, and under such circumstances, I feel the most perfect confidence that your Majesty will hasten to recal it.—I should basely be wanting to my own interest and feelings, if I did not plainly state my sense of that injustice and cruelty; and if I did not most loudly complain of it. Your Majesty will better perceive the just grounds of my complaint when I retrace the course of these proceedings from their commencement.—The four noble Lords, appointed by your Majesty to inquire into the charges brought against me, in their Report of the 14th of July last, after having stated that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales had laid before him, the charge which was made against me, by Lady Douglas, and the declarations in support of it, proceed in the following manner.

\* "In the painful situation in which His Royal Highness was placed by these communications, we learnt that His Royal Highness had adopted the *only course* which could, in our judgment, with propriety, be followed. When informations such as these, had been thus confidently alleged, and particularly detailed, and had been in some degree supported by collateral evidence, applying to other facts of the same nature, (though going to a far less extent,) *one line only* could be pursued.—Every sentiment of duty to your Majesty, and of concern for the public welfare, required that these particulars should not be withheld from your Majesty, to whom more particularly belonged the cognizance of a matter of State, so nearly touching the honour of your Majesty's Royal Family, and, by possibility, affecting the succession of your Majesty's Crown.—Your Majesty had been pleased, on your part, to view the subject in the same light. Considering it as a matter which, on every account demanded the most immediate investigation, your Majesty had thought fit to commit into our hands the duty of ascertaining, in the first instance, what degree of

\* Report.



"credit was due to the information, and there-  
"by enabling your Majesty to decide what fur-  
"ther conduct to adopt respecting them."

His Royal Highness then, pursuing, as the four Lords say, *the only course* which could, in their judgment, with propriety, be pursued, submitted the matter to your Majesty.—Your Majesty directed the Inquiry by the four noble Lords.—The four Lords in their Report upon the case, justly acquitted me of all crime, and expressed (I will not wait now to say how unjustly) the credit which they gave, and the consequence they ascribed to other matters, which they did not, however, characterize as amounting to any crime.—To this Report I made my answer.—That answer, together with the whole proceedings, was referred by your Majesty, to the same four noble Lords, and others of your Majesty's confidential servants. They advised your Majesty, amongst much other matter (which must be the subject of further observations), that there was no longer any reason why you should decline receiving me.—Your Majesty will necessarily conceive that I have always looked upon my banishment from your Royal Presence, as, in fact, a punishment, and a severe one too. I thought it sufficiently hard, that I should have been suffering that punishment during the time that this Inquiry has been pending, while I was yet only under accusation, and upon the principles of the just laws of your Majesty's kingdom, entitled to be presumed to be innocent, till I was proved to be guilty. But I find this does not appear to be enough, in the opinion of the Prince of Wales. For now, when after this long Inquiry into matters which required immediate investigation, I have been acquitted of every thing which could call for my banishment from your Royal Presence. After your Majesty's confidential servants have thus expressly advised your Majesty that they see no reason why you should any longer decline to receive me into your presence:—after your Majesty had graciously notified to me your determination to receive me at an early day, His Royal Highness interposes the demand of a new delay; desires your Majesty not to take any step; desires you not to act upon the advice which your own confidential servants have given you, that you need no longer decline seeing me;—not to execute your intention, and assurance, that you will receive me at an early day;—because he has laid the documents before his Lawyers, and intends to prepare a further statement. And the judgment of your Majesty's confidential servants, is, as it were, appealed from by the Prince of Wales (whom, from this time, at least, I must be permitted to consider as assuming the character of my accuser);—the justice due to me is to be suspended, while the judgment of your Majesty's sworn servants is to be submitted to the revision of my accuser's Counsel; and I, though acquitted in the opinion of your Majesty's confidential servants, of all that should induce your Majesty to decline seeing me, am to have that punishment, which had been inflicted upon me during the Inquiry, continued after that acquittal, till a fresh statement is prepared, to be again submitted, for aught I know, to another Inquiry, of as extended a continuance as that which has just terminated.—Can it be said, that the proceedings of the four noble Lords, or of your Majesty's confidential servants, have been so lenient and considerate towards me and my feel-

ings, as to induce a suspicion that I have been too favourably dealt with by them? and that the advice which has been given to your Majesty, that your Majesty need no longer decline to receive me, was hastily and partially delivered? I am confident that your Majesty must see the very reverse of this to be the case—that I have every reason to complain of the inexplicable delay which so long withheld that advice. And the whole character of the observations with which they accompanied it, marks the reluctance with which they yielded to the necessity of giving it.—For your Majesty's confidential servants advise your Majesty, "that it is no longer necessary for you to decline receiving me into your Royal Presence." If this is their opinion and their advice now, why was it not their opinion and their advice four months ago, from the date of my answer? Nay, why was it not their opinion and advice from the date even of the original Report itself? For not only had they been in possession of my answer for above *sixteen weeks*, which at least furnished them with all the materials on which this advice was at length given, but further, your Majesty's confidential servants are forward to state, that after having read my observations, and the affidavits which were annexed to them, they agree in *the opinions* (not in any single opinion upon any particular branch of the case, but in *the opinions generally*) which were submitted to your Majesty, in the original Report of the four Lords. If, therefore (notwithstanding their concurrence in *all* the opinions contained in the Report), they have, nevertheless, given to your Majesty their advice, "that it is no longer necessary for you to decline receiving me," what could have prevented their offering that advice, even from the 14th of July, the date of the original Report itself? Or what could have warranted the withholding of it, even for a single moment? Instead, therefore, of any trace being observable, of hasty, precipitate, and partial determination in my favour, it is impossible to interpret their conduct and their reasons together in any other sense, than as amounting to an admission of your Majesty's confidential servants themselves, that I have, in consequence of their withholding that advice, been, unnecessarily and cruelly banished from your Royal Presence, from that 14th of July to the 28th of January, including a space of above six months; and the effect of the interposition of the Prince, is to prolong my sufferings and my disgrace, under the same banishment, to a period perfectly indefinite.—The principle which will admit the effect of such interposition now, may be acted upon again; and the Prince may require a further prolongation upon fresh statements and fresh charges, kept back possibly for the purpose of being, from time to time, conveniently interposed, to prevent for ever the arrival of that hour, which, displaying to the world the acknowledgment of my unmerited sufferings and disgrace, may, at the same time, expose the truly malicious and unjust quality of the proceedings which have been so long carried on against me.—This unreasonable, unjust, and cruel interposition of His Royal Highness, as I must ever deem it, has prevailed upon your Majesty to recal, to my prejudice, your gracious purpose of receiving me, in pursuance of the advice of your servants. Do I then flatter myself too much, when I feel assured, that my just entreaty, founded upon the reasons which I



urge, and directed to counteract only the effect of that *unjust* interposition, will induce your Majesty to return to your original determination?

—Restored, however, as I should feel myself, to a state of comparative security, as well as credit, by being, at length, permitted, upon your Majesty's gracious re-consideration of your last determination, to have access to your Majesty; yet, under all the circumstances under which I should now receive that mark and confirmation of your Majesty's opinion of my innocence, my character would not, I fear, stand cleared in the public opinion, by the mere fact of your Majesty's reception of me. This revocation of your Majesty's gracious purpose has flung an additional cloud about the whole proceeding, and the inferences drawn in the public mind, from this circumstance, so mysterious and so perfectly inexplicable, upon any grounds which are open to their knowledge, has made, and will leave so deep an impression to my prejudice, as scarce any thing short of a public exposure of all that has passed can possibly efface.

The publication of all these proceedings to the world, then, seems to me, under the present circumstances (whatever reluctance I feel against such a measure, and however I regret the hard necessity which drives me to it), to be almost the only remaining resource for the vindication of my honour and character. The falsehood of the accusation is, by no means, all that will, by such publication, appear to the credit and clearance of my character; but the course in which the whole proceedings have been carried on, or rather delayed, by those to whom your Majesty referred the consideration of them, will shew, that, whatever measure of justice I may have ultimately received at their hands, it is not to be suspected as arising from any merciful and indulgent consideration of me, of my feelings, or of my case.—It will be seen how my feelings had been harassed, and my character and honour exposed, by the delays which have taken place in these proceedings: it will be seen, that the existence of the charge against me had avowedly been known to the public from the 7th of June in the last year. I say known to the public; because it was on that day that the Commissioners, acting, as I am to suppose (for so they state in their Report), under the anxious wish, that their trust should be executed with as little publicity as possible, authorized that unnecessary insult and outrage upon me, as I must always consider it, which, however intended, gave the utmost publicity and exposure to the existence of these charges: I mean, the sending two Attorneys, armed with their Lordships' warrant, to my house, to bring before them, at once, about one half of my household for examination. The idea of privacy, after an act so much calculated, from the extraordinary nature of it, to excite the greatest attention and surprise, your Majesty must feel to have been impossible and absurd; for an attempt at secrecy, mystery, and concealment, on my part, could, under such circumstances, only have been construed into the fearfulness of guilt.—It will appear also, that from that time I heard nothing authentically upon the subject till the 11th of August, when I was furnished, by your Majesty's commands, with the Report. The several papers necessary to my understanding the whole of these charges, in the authentic state in which your Majesty thought it proper graciously to direct that I should have them, were not delivered to me till

the beginning of September. My answer to these various charges, though the whole subject of them was new to those whose advice I had recourse to, long as that answer was necessarily obliged to be, was delivered to the Lord Chancellor, to be forwarded to your Majesty, by the 6th of October; and, from the 6th of October to the 28th of January, I was kept in total ignorance of the effect of that answer. Not only will all this delay be apparent, but it will be generally shewn to the world, how your Majesty's Servants had in this important business treated your Daughter-in-law, the Princess of Wales; and what measure of justice she, a female, and a stranger in your land, has experienced at their hands.

Undoubtedly against such a proceeding I have ever felt, and still feel, an almost invincible repugnance. Every sentiment of delicacy, with which a female mind must shrink from the act of bringing before the public such charges, however conscious of their scandal and falsity, and however clearly that scandal and falsity may be manifested by the answer to those charges, the respect still due from me to persons employed in authority under your Majesty, however little respect I may have received from them; my duty to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales; my regard for all the members of your august family; my esteem, my duty, my gratitude to your Majesty; my affectionate gratitude for all the paternal kindness which I have ever experienced from you; my anxiety not only to avoid the risk of giving any offence or displeasure to your Majesty, but also to fly from every occasion of creating the slightest sentiment of uneasiness in the mind of your Majesty, whose happiness it would be the pride and pleasure of my life to consult and to promote; all these various sentiments have compelled me to submit, as long as human forbearance could endure, to all the unfavourable inferences which were through this delay daily increasing in the public mind. What the strength and efficacy of these motives have been, your Majesty will do me justice to feel, when you are pleased graciously to consider how long I have been contented to suffer those suspicions to exist against my innocence, which the bringing before the public of my accusation, and my defence to it, would so indisputably and immediately have dispelled.—The measure, however, of making these proceedings public, whatever mode I can adopt (considering especially the absolute impossibility of suffering any partial production of them, and the necessity that, if for any purpose any part of them should be produced, the whole must be brought before the public) remains surrounded with all the objections which I have enumerated; and nothing could ever have prevailed upon me, or can now even prevail upon me, to have recourse to it, but an imperious sense of indispensable duty to my future safety, to my present character and honour, and to the feelings, the character, and the interests of my child. I had flattered myself, when once this long proceeding should have terminated in my reception into your Majesty's presence, that that circumstance alone would have so strongly implied my innocence of all that had been brought against me, as to have been perfectly sufficient for my honour and my security; *but accompanied*, as it now must be, with the knowledge of the fact, that your Majesty has been brought to hesitate upon its propriety, and accompanied also with the very unjustifiable observations, as they



appear to me, on which I shall presently proceed to remark; and which were made by your Majesty's Servants, at the time when they gave you their advice to receive me, I feel myself in a situation, in which I deeply regret that I cannot rest in silence, without an immediate reception into your Majesty's presence; nor, indeed, with that reception, unless it be attended by other circumstances, which may mark my satisfactory acquittal of the charges which have been brought against me.

It shall at no time be said, with truth, that I shrunk back from these infamous charges; that I crouched before my enemies, and courted them, by my submission, into moderation! No, I have ever boldly defied them. I have ever felt, and still feel, that, if they should think either of pursuing these accusations, or of bringing forward any other which the wickedness of individuals may devise, to affect my honour, (since my conscience tells me, that they must be as base and groundless as those brought by Lady Douglas), while the witnesses to the innocence of my conduct are all living, I should be able to disprove them all; and, whoever may be my accusers, to triumph over their wickedness and malice. But should these accusations be renewed, or any other be brought forward in any future time, death may, I know not how soon, remove from my innocence its best security, and deprive me of the means of my justification and my defence.—There are, therefore, other measures, which I trust your Majesty will think indispensable to be taken, for my honour and for my security.—Amongst these, I most humbly submit to your Majesty my most earnest entreaties that the proceedings, including not only my first answer, and my letter of the 8th of December, but this letter also, may be directed by your Majesty to be so preserved and deposited, as that they may, all of them, securely remain permanent authentic documents and memorials of this accusation, and of the manner in which I met it; of my defence, as well as of the charge; that they may remain capable at any time of being resorted to, if the malice which produced the charge originally shall ever venture to renew it.—Beyond this I am sure your Majesty will think it but proper and just that I should be restored, in every respect, to the same situation from whence the proceedings under these false charges have removed me. That, besides being graciously received again into the bosom of your Majesty's Royal Family, restored to my former respect and station amongst them, your Majesty will be graciously pleased either to exert your influence with His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, that I may be restored to the use of my apartment in Carleton House, which was reserved for me, except while the apartments were undergoing repair, till the date of these proceedings; or to assign to me some apartment in one of your royal palaces. Some apartment in or near to London is indispensably necessary for my convenient attendance at the Drawing-room. And if I am not restored to that at Carleton House, I trust your Majesty will graciously perceive how reasonable it is that I should request that some apartment should be assigned to me, suited to my dignity and situation, which may mark my reception and acknowledgment as one of your Majesty's family, and from which my attendance at the Drawing-room may be easy and convenient.—If these measures are taken, I should hope that they would prove satisfactory to the public mind, and that I

may feel myself fully restored in public estimation to my former character. And should they prove so satisfactory, I shall indeed be delighted to think, that no further step may, even now, appear to be necessary to my peace of mind, my security, and my honour.—But your Majesty will permit me to say, that if the next week, which will make more than a month from the time of your Majesty's informing me that you would receive me, should pass without my being received into your presence, and without having the assurance that these other requests of mine shall be complied with, I shall be under the painful necessity of considering them as refused; in which case I shall feel myself compelled, however reluctantly, to give the whole of these proceedings to the world; unless your Majesty can suggest other adequate means of securing my honour and my life from the effect of the continuance or renewal of these proceedings for the future as well as the present; for I entreat your Majesty to believe, that it is only in the absence of all other adequate means, that I can have resort to that measure. That I consider it with deep regret; that I regard it with serious apprehension, by no means so much on account of the effect it may have upon myself, as on account of the pain which it may give to your Majesty, your august family, and your loyal subjects.—As far as myself am concerned, I am aware of the observations to which this publication will expose me; but I am placed in a situation in which I have the choice only of two most unpleasant alternatives; and I am perfectly confident that the imputations and the loss of character which must, under these circumstances, follow from my silence, are most injurious and unavoidable; that my silence, under such circumstances, must lead inevitably to my utter infamy and ruin. The publication, on the other hand, will expose to the world nothing which is spoken to by any witness (whose infamy and discredit is not unanswerably exposed and established) which can, in the slightest degree, affect my character for honour, virtue, and delicacy.—There may be circumstances disclosed, manifesting a degree of condescension and familiarity in my behaviour and conduct, which, in the opinions of many, may be considered as not sufficiently guarded, dignified, and reserved. Circumstances, however, which my foreign education and foreign habits misled me to think, in the humble and retired situation in which it was my fate to live, and where I had no relation, no equal, no friend to advise me, were wholly free from offence. But when they have been dragged forward, from the scenes of private life, in a grave proceeding on a charge of High Treason and Adultery, they seem to derive a colour and character from the nature of the charge which they are brought forward to support; and I cannot but believe, that they have been used for no other purpose than to afford a cover, to screen from view the injustice of that charge; that they have been taken advantage of, to let down my accusers more gently, and to deprive me of that full acquittal on the Report of the four Lords which my innocence of all offence most justly entitled me to receive.—Whatever opinion, however, may be formed upon any part of my conduct, it must in justice be formed with reference to the situation in which I was placed; if I am judged of as Princess of Wales, with reference to the high rank of that station, I must be judged as Princess of Wales, banished from the Prince, unprotected by the



support and the countenance which belong to that station; and if I am judged of in my private character, as a married woman, I must be judged of as a wife banished from her husband, and living in a widowed seclusion from him, and retirement from the world. This last consideration leads me to recur to an expression in Mrs. Lisle's examination, which describes my conduct, in the frequency and the manner of my receiving the visits of Captain Manby, though always in the presence of my Ladies, as unbecoming a married woman. Upon the extreme injustice of setting up the opinion of one woman, as it were, in judgment upon the conduct of another, as well as of estimating the conduct of a person in my unfortunate situation, by reference to that which might in general be expected from a married woman, living happily with her husband, I have before generally remarked; but beyond these general remarks, in forming any estimate of my conduct, your Majesty will never forget the very peculiar circumstances and misfortunes of my situation. Your Majesty will remember that I had not been much above a year in this country, when I received the following letter from his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

*Windsor Castle, April 30, 1796.*

"Madam,—As Lord Cholmondeley informs me that you wish I would define, in writing,\* the terms upon which we are to live, I shall endeavour to explain myself upon that head, with as much clearness, and with as much propriety, as the nature of the subject will admit. Our inclinations are not in our power, nor should either of us be held answerable to the other, because nature has not made us suitable to each other. Tranquil and comfortable society is, however, in our power; let our intercourse, therefore, be restricted to that, and I will distinctly subscribe to the condition† which you required, through Lady Cholmondeley, that even in the event of any accident happening to my daughter, which I trust Providence in its mercy will avert, I shall not infringe the terms of the restriction by proposing at any period a connexion of a more particular nature. I shall now finally close this disagreeable correspondence, trusting that, as we have completely explained ourselves to each other, the rest of our lives will be passed in uninterrupted tranquillity.—I am, Madam, with great truth, very sincerely yours,

(Signed) "GEORGE P."

\* The substance of this letter had been previously conveyed in a message through Lord Cholmondeley to Her Royal Highness; but it was thought by Her Royal Highness to be infinitely too important to rest merely upon a verbal communication, and therefore she desired that His Royal Highness's pleasure upon it should be communicated to her in writing.

† Upon the receipt of the message alluded to in the foregoing note, Her Royal Highness, though she had nothing to do but to submit to the arrangement which His Royal Highness might determine upon, desired it might be understood, that she should insist that any such arrangement, if once made, should be considered as final; and that His Royal Highness should not retain the right, from time to time, at his pleasure, or under any circumstances, to alter it.

And that to this letter I sent the following answer:

"L'aveu de votre conversation avec Lord Cholmondeley, ne m'étonne, ni ne m'offense. C'étoit me confirmer ce que vous m'avez tacitement insinué depuis une année. Mais il y aura après cela, un manque de délicatesse ou, pour mieux dire, une bassesse indigne de me plaindre des conditions, que vous vous imposez à vous même.—Je ne vous aurois point fait de réponse, si votre lettre n'étoit conçue de manière à faire douter, si cet arrangement vient de vous, ou de moi; et vous sçavez que vous m'annoncez l'honneur. La lettre que vous m'annoncez comme la dernière, m'oblige de communiquer au Roy, comme à mon Souverain, et à mon Pere, votre aveu et ma réponse. Vous trouverez ci incluse la copie de celle que j'écris au Roy. Je vous en prévient pour ne pas m'attirer de votre part la moindre reproche de duplicité. Comme je n'ai dans ce moment, d'autre protecteur que Sa Majesté, je m'en rapporte uniquement à lui. Et si ma conduite mérite son approbation, je serai, du moins en partie, consolée.—Du reste, je conserve toute la reconnaissance possible de ce que je me trouve par votre moyen, comme Princesse de Galles, dans une situation à pouvoir me livrer sans contrainte, à une vertu chère à mon cœur, je veux dire la bienfaisance. Ce sera pour moi un devoir d'agir de plus par un autre motif, sçavoir celui de donner l'exemple de la patience, et de la résignation dans toutes sortes d'épreuves. Rendez moi la justice de me croire, que je ne cesserai jamais de faire des vœux pour votre bonheur, et d'être votre bien dévouée."\*

(Signed)

"CAROLINE.

"Ce 6 de May, 1796."

\* TRANSLATION.

The avowal of your conversation with Lord Cholmondeley neither surprises nor offends me. It merely confirmed what you have tacitly insinuated for this twelvemonth. But after this, it would be a want of delicacy, or rather an unworthy meanness in me, were I to complain of those conditions which you impose upon yourself.—I should have returned no answer to your letter, if it had not been conceived in terms to make it doubtful whether this arrangement proceeds from you or from me, and you are aware that the credit of it belongs to you alone.—The letter which you announce to me as the last, obliges me to communicate to the King, as to my Sovereign and my Father, both your avowal and my answer. You will find enclosed the copy of my letter to the King. I apprise you of it, that I may not incur the slightest reproach of duplicity from you. As I have at this moment no protector but His Majesty, I refer myself solely to him upon this subject; and if my conduct meets his approbation, I shall be in some degree at least consoled. I retain every sentiment of gratitude for the situation in which I find myself, as Princess of Wales, enabled by your means to indulge in the free exercise of a virtue dear to my heart, I mean charity.—It will be my duty likewise to act upon another motive, that of giving an example of patience and resignation under every trial.—Do me the justice to believe, that I shall never cease to pray for your happiness, and to be, your much devoted

6th of May, 1796.

CAROLINE.



The date of His Royal Highness's letter is the 30th of April, 1796. The date of our marriage, your Majesty will recollect, is the 8th day of April, in the year 1795, and that of the birth of our only child the 7th January, 1796.

On the letter of His Royal Highness I offer no comment. I only entreat your Majesty not to understand me to introduce it, as affording any supposed justification or excuse, for the least departure from the strictest line of virtue, or the slightest deviation from the most refined delicacy. The crime which has been insinuated against me, would be equally criminal and detestable; the indelicacy imputed to me would be equally odious and abominable, whatever renunciation of conjugal authority and affection, the above letter of His Royal Highness might in any construction of it be supposed to have conveyed. Such crimes and faults, derive not their guilt from the consideration of the conjugal virtues of the individual, who may be the most injured by them, however much such virtues may aggravate their enormity. No such letter, therefore, in any construction of it, no renunciation of conjugal affection or duties, could ever palliate them. But whether conduct free from all crime, free from all indelicacy, (which I maintain to be the character of the conduct to which Mrs. Lisle's observations apply,) yet possibly not so measured, as a cautious wife, careful to avoid the slightest appearance of not preferring her husband to all the world, might be studious to observe. Whether conduct of such description, and possibly, in such sense, not becoming a married woman, could be justly deemed, in my situation, an offence in me, I must leave to your Majesty to determine.—In making that determination, however, it will not escape your Majesty to consider, that the conduct which does or does not become a married woman materially depends upon what is, or is not known by her to be agreeable to her husband. His pleasure and happiness ought unquestionably to be her law; and his approbation the most favourite object of her pursuit. Different characters of men require different modes of conduct in their wives; but when a wife can no longer be capable of perceiving from time to time what is agreeable or offensive to her husband, when her conduct can no longer contribute to his happiness, no longer hope to be rewarded by his approbation, surely to examine that conduct by the standard of what ought in general to be the conduct of a married woman, is altogether unreasonable and unjust.—What then is my case? Your Majesty will do me the justice to remark, that, in the above letter of the Prince of Wales, there is not the most distant surmise, that crime, that vice, that indelicacy of any description, gave occasion to his determination; and all the tales of infamy and discredit, which the inventive malice of my enemies, has brought forward on these charges, have their date years and years after the period to which I am now alluding. What then, let me repeat the question, is my case? After the receipt of the above letter, and in about two years from my arrival in this country, I had the misfortune entirely to lose the support, the countenance, the protection of my husband—I was banished, as it were, into a sort of humble retirement, at a distance from him, and almost estranged from the whole of the Royal Family. I had no means of having recourse, either for society or advice, to those,

from whom my inexperience could have best received the advantages of the one, and with whom I could, most becomingly, have enjoyed the comforts of the other; and if in this retired, unassisted, unprotected state, without the check of a husband's authority, without the benefit of his advice, without the comfort and support of the society of his family, a stranger to the habits and fashions of this country, I should, in any instance, under the influence of foreign habits, and foreign education, have observed a conduct, in any degree deviating from the reserve and severity of British manners, and partaking of a condescension and familiarity, which that reserve and severity would, perhaps, deem beneath the dignity of my exalted rank, I feel confident, (since such deviation will be seen to have been ever consistent with perfect innocence), that not only your Majesty's candour and indulgence, but the candour and indulgence, which, notwithstanding the reserve and severity of British manners, always belong to the British public, will never visit it with severity or censure.—It remains for me now to make some remarks upon the further contents of the paper, which was transmitted to me by the Lord Chancellor on the 28th ult. And I cannot in passing omit to remark, that that paper has neither title, date, signature, nor attestation; and unless the Lord Chancellor had accompanied it with a note stating that it was copied in his own hand from the original, which his Lordship had received from your Majesty, I should have been at a loss to have perceived any single mark of authenticity belonging to it, and as it is, I am wholly unable to discover what is the true character which does belong to it. It contains, indeed, the advice which your Majesty's servants have offered to your Majesty, and the message, which, according to that advice, your Majesty directed to be delivered to me.—Considering it, therefore, wholly as their act, your Majesty will excuse and pardon me, if, deeply injured as I feel myself to have been by them, I express myself with freedom upon their conduct. I may speak perhaps with warmth, because I am provoked by a sense of gross injustice, I shall speak certainly with firmness and with courage, because I am emboldened by a sense of conscious innocence.—Your Majesty's confidential servants say, "they agree in the opinions of the Four Lords," and they say this, "after the fullest consideration of my observations, and of the affidavits which were annexed to them." Some of these opinions, your Majesty will recollect, are, that "William Cole, Fanny Lloyd, Robert Bidgood, and Mrs. Lisle are witnesses who cannot," in the judgment of the Four Lords, "be suspected of any unfavourable bias;" "and whose veracity in this respect they had seen no ground to question;" and "that the circumstances to which they speak, particularly as relating to Captain Manby, must be credited until they are decisively contradicted." Am I then to understand your Majesty's confidential servants to mean, that they agree with the four Noble Lords in these opinions? Am I to understand, that, after having read with the fullest consideration, the observations, which I have offered to your Majesty; after having seen William Cole there proved to have submitted himself, five times at least, to private, unauthorized, voluntary examination by Sir John Douglas's Solicitor, for the express purpose of confirming the statement of Lady Doug-



las (of that Lady Douglas, whose statement and deposition they are convinced to be so malicious and false, that they propose to institute such prosecution against her, as your Majesty's Law Officers may advise, upon a reference, now at length, after six months from the detection of that malice and falsehood, intended to be made) —after having seen this William Cole, submitting to such repeated voluntary examinations for such a purpose, and although he was all that time a servant on my establishment, and eating my bread, yet never once communicating to me, that such examinations were going on—am I to understand, that your Majesty's confidential servants agree with the four Lords in thinking, that he cannot, under such circumstances, be suspected of unfavourable bias? That after having had pointed out to them the direct, flat contradiction between the same William Cole and Fanny Lloyd, they nevertheless agree to think them both (though in direct contradiction to each other, yet both) witnesses, whose veracity they see no ground to question? After having seen Fanny Lloyd directly and positively contradicted, in an assertion, most injurious to my honour, by Mr. Mills and Mr. Edmeades, do they agree in opinion with the four Noble Lords, that they see no ground to question their veracity?—After having read the observations on Mr. Bidgood's evidence: after having seen that he had the hardihood to swear, that he believed Captain Manby slept in my house, at Southend, and to insinuate that he slept in my bed-room; after having seen that he founded himself on this most false fact, and most foul and wicked insinuation, upon the circumstance of observing a bason and some towels where he thought they ought not to be placed; after having seen that this fact, and this insinuation were disproved before the four noble Lords themselves, by two maid-servants, who, at that time, lived with me at Southend, and whose duties about my person and my apartments, must have made them acquainted with this fact, as asserted, or as insinuated, if it had happened; after having observed too, in confirmation of their testimony, that one of them mentioned the name of another female servant (who was not examined), who had, from her situation, equal means of knowledge with themselves—I ask whether, after all this decisive weight of contradiction to Robert Bidgood's testimony, I am to understand your Majesty's confidential servants to agree with the four noble Lords in thinking, that Mr. Bidgood is a witness, who cannot be suspected of unfavourable bias, and that there is no ground to question his veracity? If, Sire, I were to go through all the remarks of this description, which occur to me to make, I should be obliged to repeat nearly all my former observations, and to make this letter as long as my original answer: but to that answer I confidently appeal, and I will venture to challenge your Majesty's confidential servants to find a single impartial, and honourable man, unconnected in feeling and interest with the parties, and unconnected in Council, with those who have already pledged themselves to an opinion upon this subject, who will lay his hand upon his heart, and say, that these three witnesses, on whom that Report so mainly relies, are not to be suspected of the grossest partiality, and that their veracity is not most fundamentally impeached.—Was it then noble, was it generous, was it manly, was it just, in your Majesty's confidential servants, instead of fairly admitting

the injustice which had been, inadvertently and unintentionally, no doubt, done to me, by the four noble Lords in their Report, upon the evidence of these witnesses, to state to your Majesty, that they agree with these noble Lords in their opinion, though they cannot, it seems, go the length of agreeing any longer to withhold the advice, which restores me to your Majesty's presence? And with respect to the particulars to my prejudice, remarked upon in the Report as those "which justly deserve the most serious consideration, and which must be credited till decisively contradicted," instead of fairly avowing, either that there was originally no pretence for such a remark, or that, if there had been originally, yet that my answer had given that decisive contradiction which was sufficient to discredit them; instead, I say, of acting this just, honest, and open part, to take no notice whatsoever of those contradictions, and content themselves with saying, that "none of the facts or allegations stated in preliminary examinations, carried on in the absence of the parties interested, could be considered as legally or conclusively established?"—They agree in the opinion that the facts or allegations, though stated in preliminary examination, carried on in the absence of the parties interested, must be credited till decisively contradicted, and deserve the most serious consideration. They read, with the fullest consideration, the contradiction which I have tendered to them; they must have known, that no other sort of contradiction could, by possibility, from the nature of things, have been offered upon such subjects: they do not question the truth, they do not point out the insufficiency of the contradiction, but, in loose, general, indefinite terms, referring to my answer, consisting, as it does, of above two hundred written pages, and coupling it with those examinations (which they admit establish nothing against an absent party) they advise your Majesty, that "there appear many circumstances of conduct, which could not be regarded by your Majesty without serious concern;" and that, as to all the other facts and allegations, except those relative to my pregnancy and delivery, they are not to be considered as "legally and conclusively established," because spoken to in preliminary examinations, not carried on in the presence of the parties concerned. They do not, indeed, expressly assert, that my contradiction was not decisive or satisfactory; they do not expressly state, that they think the facts and allegations want nothing towards their legal and conclusive establishment, but a re-examination in the presence of the parties interested, but they go far to imply such opinions. That those opinions are utterly untenable, against the observations I have made, upon the credit and character of those witnesses, I shall ever most confidently maintain; but that those observations leave their credit wholly unaffected, and did not deserve the least notice from your Majesty's servants, it is impossible that any honourable man can assert, or any fair and unprejudiced mind believe.—I now proceed, Sire, to observe, very shortly, upon the advice further given to your Majesty as contained in the remaining part of the paper; which has represented that, both in the examinations, and even in my answer there have appeared many circumstances of conduct which could not be regarded but with serious concern, and which have suggested the expression of a desire and expectation, that such



a conduct may, in future, be observed by me, as may fully justify those marks of paternal regard and affection, which your Majesty wishes to shew to all your Royal Family.—And here, Sire, your Majesty will graciously permit me to notice the hardship of the advice, which has suggested to your Majesty, to convey to me this reproof. I complain not so much for what it does, as for what it does not contain; I mean the absence of all particular mention of what it is, that is the object of their blame. The circumstances of conduct which appear in these examinations, and in my answer to which they allude as those which may be supposed to justify the advice, which has led to this reproof, since your Majesty's servants have not particularly mentioned them, I cannot be certain that I know. But I will venture confidently to repeat the assertion, which I have already made, that there are no circumstances of conduct spoken to by any witness (whose infamy and discredit are not unanswerably exposed and established), nor any where apparent in my answer which have the remotest approach either to crime or to indelicacy.—For my future conduct, Sire, impressed with every sense of gratitude for all former kindness, I shall be bound unquestionably, by sentiment as well as duty, to study your Majesty's pleasure. Any advice which your Majesty may wish to give to me in respect of any particulars in my conduct, I shall be bound, and be anxious to obey as my law. But I must trust that your Majesty will point out to me the particulars, which may happen to displease you, and which you may wish to have altered. I shall be as happy, in thus feeling myself safe from blame under the benefit of your Majesty's advice, as I am now in finding myself secured from danger, under the protection of your justice.

Your Majesty will permit me to add one word more.—Your Majesty has seen what detriment my character has, for a time, sustained, by the false and malicious statement of Lady Douglas, and by the depositions of the witnesses who were examined in support of her statement. Your Majesty has seen how many enemies I have, and how little their malice has been restrained by any regard to truth in the pursuit of my ruin. Few, as it may be hoped, may be the instances of such determined, and unprovoked, malignity, yet, I cannot flatter myself, that the world does not produce other persons, who may be swayed by similar motives to similar wickedness. Whether the statement to be prepared by the Prince of Wales, is to be confined to the old charges, or is intended to bring forward new circumstances, I cannot tell; but if any fresh attempts of the same nature shall be made by my accusers, instructed as they will have been, by their miscarriage in this instance, I can hardly hope that they will not renew their charge, with an improved artifice, more skilfully directed, and with a malice, inflamed rather than abated, by their previous disappointment. I therefore can only appeal to your Majesty's justice, in which I confidently trust, that whether these charges are to be renewed against me either on the old or on fresh evidence; or whether new accusations, as well as new witnesses, are to be brought forward, your Majesty, after the experi-

ence, of these proceedings, will not suffer your Royal mind to be prejudiced by *ex parte*, secret examinations, nor my character to be whispered away by insinuations, or suggestions which I have no opportunity of meeting. If any charge, which the law will recognize, should be brought against me in an open and legal manner, I should have no right to complain, nor any apprehension to meet it. But till I may have a full opportunity of so meeting it, I trust your Majesty will not suffer it to excite even a suspicion to my prejudice. I must claim the benefit of the presumption of innocence till I am proved to be guilty, for, without that presumption, against the effects of secret insinuations and *ex parte* examinations, the purest innocence can make no defence, and can have no security.—Surrounded, as it is now proved, that I have been, for years, by domestic spies, your Majesty must, I trust, feel convinced, that if I had been guilty there could not have been wanting evidence to have proved my guilt. And that these spies have been obliged to have resort to their own invention, for the support of the charge, is the strongest demonstration that the truth, undisguised, and correctly represented, could furnish them with no handle against me. And when I consider the nature and malignity of that conspiracy, which, I feel confident I have completely detected and exposed, I cannot but think of that detection, with the liveliest gratitude, as the special blessing of Providence, who, by confounding the machinations of my enemies, has enabled me to find, in the very excess and extravagance of their malice, in the very weapons which they fabricated and sharpened for my destruction, the sufficient guard to my innocence, and the effectual means of my justification and defence.—I trust therefore, Sire, that I may now close this long letter, in confidence that many days will not elapse before I shall receive from your Majesty, that assurance that my just requests may be so completely granted, as may render it possible for me (which nothing else can) to avoid the painful disclosure to the world of all the circumstances of that injustice, and of those unmerited sufferings, which these proceedings, in the manner in which they have been conducted, have brought upon me.—I remain, Sire, with every sentiment of gratitude, your Majesty's most dutiful, most submissive daughter-in-law, subject and servant,  
(Signed) C. P.

*Montague House, Feb. 16, 1807.*

As these observations apply not only to the official communication through the Lord Chancellor, of the 28th ult.; but also to the private letter of your Majesty, of the 12th instant, I have thought it most respectful to your Majesty and your Majesty's servants, to send this letter in duplicate, one part through Colonel Taylor, and the other through the Lord Chancellor, to your Majesty.

(Signed)

C. P.

*To the King.*

[Here should have come in the Princess's Letter to the King of the 5th of March, 1807, which letter was the last she wrote; but it will be found in the foregoing Number of the Register, at page 410.]